

## A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

*If you have never witnessed the solemn Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Feast Sunday Procession, I highly recommend viewing this event on July 13!*

Dear Neighbors,

There was a time when people in the Chicago area would hear Melrose Park and immediately think of the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This festival, which began in 1894, is the longest-running religious festival in the Chicago area. The Feast, as it is commonly known, will celebrate its 132nd anniversary this year from July 4-13.



**Ronald M. Serpico**  
Mayor

On Feb. 20, 1894, the "Società di Signore Italiane di Maria Santissima del Carmine" was founded by women primarily from Laurenzana, Italy. The purpose of this society was to establish a "Festa Della Madonna," similar to one celebrated in their hometown in Italy.

Emanuella DeStefano, their leader, embodied the group's enthusiasm. When her husband fell ill, Emanuella made a vow that if he recovered, she would establish the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as a gesture of gratitude for his return to health.

The first Feast was celebrated on July 16, 1894, at the DeStefano farm on 25th and North Avenues. Hundreds of newly arrived Italian immigrants attended to honor a statue commissioned by Emanuella, a replica of the famous statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, venerated for centuries in Laurenzana.

In September 1905, Rev. Benjamin Franch arrived in Melrose Park to develop a new parish.

The development of the new parish required a careful management of the Feast. Emanuella donated the statue she cherished to the parish. Father Franch continued to serve at Mount Carmel until his death nearly 50 years later.

In 1906, Father Franch founded the "Congregazione Parrocchiale Maria SS Del Monte Carmelo" to raise funds for a new church. This group also helped organize the Feast, serving as a prototype for what would later

become the Feast Committee. By 1908, a new, larger and more beautiful church was constructed to accommodate the growing number of Feast devotees.

The Feast is celebrated on the closest date to Our Lady's Day, which falls on July 16. Traditions have developed over time; on Thursday evening before the Feast, a marching band serenades the Virgin and parades through the parish. On Saturday evening, they perform again in front of the church and conclude with a concert.

Visitors from outside the area would start arriving in Melrose Park early on the Sunday morning of the procession. Many would set up temporary camps on the lawns of homes along the procession route.

Fireworks marked the Madonna's exit from the church after the Solemn High Mass. In 1926, Father Franch commissioned an Italian woodcarver to create a beautiful canopy still in use today.

On Sunday, thousands would march behind the statue of Mary. The procession journeyed south on 24th Avenue to Main Street, then returned north on 23rd Avenue to the church. In the evening, another band concert, the crowning of the Queen of the Fiesta and magnificent fireworks would conclude the Feast.

By 1925, the growing number of groups marching in front of the statue necessitated the appointment of a grand marshal to organize the procession. Sebastian Lorenzo was appointed grand marshal in 1930 and served for 40 years.

Since 1925, decorative illuminated arches have been installed over 23rd Avenue from Lake Street to Cortez Street. The committee that year also decided to serve food and drinks, as well as provide entertainment for the children.

In 1944, the Golden Jubilee of the Feast was celebrated. To commemorate this occasion, the committee purchased a new crown for the statue. An outdoor altar was built near 25th and Augusta for a Field Mass due to the expected large crowd, a tradition that continued until 1981.

In 1966, the old church was demolished. The new church was dedicated in 1968, featuring an intimate chapel for Our Lady near the entrance.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Feast in 1969, Father Adam Torresan arranged for an Italian jeweler to create new crowns for the statue using gold and gems from votive offerings. After the Field Mass, Father Adam crowned the statue with the latest 18K gold crowns.

Many former residents still return each year to join in the Feast and the procession, as my family has done since I was a child. Even though Melrose Park's demographics have changed, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will continue to be an enduring part of Melrose Park's heritage.

If you have never witnessed the solemn Sunday Procession, I highly recommend viewing this event on July 13, an event so deeply ingrained in Melrose Park's fabric.

Sincerely,

*Ron Serpico*  
Mayor Ron Serpico



Follow us on Facebook.



Follow us on Instagram.

**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 Emergency .....911**

**Non-Emergency .....(708) 344-8409**

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

**Fire Emergency .....911**

**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**



## Village of Melrose Park Vehicle Sticker Information

All vehicles registered in the village of Melrose Park are required to display a current year Melrose Park vehicle sticker. Stickers must be renewed every two years and must be displayed on or before Jan. 1 of the applicable year. They are valid from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 of the following year.

### Who Needs a Sticker?

- All vehicles registered to a Melrose Park address.
- All vehicles registered to businesses located in Melrose Park.
- You must buy a sticker within 30 days of moving into the village or purchasing a vehicle.

### Vehicle Sticker Fees

#### Passenger Cars (Regular Vehicles)

- Covers two years if purchased on time.

#### Seniors (Age 65+)

- Covers two years if purchased on time.
- One free sticker per household (65 and older).
  - Choose one free two-year passenger car sticker or one free one-year B-truck sticker.
- Second vehicle for a senior in the same household is \$15 (half price).
- Bring a valid driver's license or state ID as proof of age to receive your sticker.

### Car Vehicle Sticker Fees

	First Year	First Year	First Year	Second Year
Passenger Plate	Jan.1-Feb. 28	March 1-June 30	July 1-Dec. 31	Jan. 1-Dec. 31
	\$30	\$40	\$55	\$55

Note – If you purchased your vehicle or moved into town within the past 30 days, you will pay the regular \$30 fee, not the late penalty. Proof of vehicle purchase and residency is required.

### Trucks

- Prices depend on the license plate class.
- Sticker is valid for one year only.

### Truck Vehicle Sticker Fees

Plate Type	Jan.1-Feb. 28	March 1-June 30	July 1-Dec. 31
B Plate	\$50	\$65	\$95
C Plate	\$75	\$90	\$145
D Plate	\$75	\$90	\$145
F Plate	\$75	\$90	\$145
H Plate	\$75	\$90	\$145
J Plate	\$80	\$95	\$155
K Plate	\$80	\$95	\$155
L Plate	\$90	\$105	\$175
M Plate	\$95	\$110	\$185
N Plate	\$100	\$115	\$195
P Plate	\$105	\$120	\$205
Q Plate	\$105	\$120	\$205
R Plate	\$110	\$125	\$215
S Plate	\$115	\$130	\$225
T Plate	\$125	\$140	\$245
V Plate	\$135	\$150	\$265
X Plate	\$145	\$160	\$285
Z Plate	\$155	\$170	\$305

### IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

- You must bring your current state of Illinois vehicle registration card to purchase stickers. (This proves your name, address and license plate.)
- No registration card = No sticker.
- Late fees may apply if not purchased on time.
- Even if your vehicle is not parked at your home, you still need a sticker if it is registered to a Melrose Park address.

**For more information, please call (708) 343-4000  
or visit [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org).**



# Resident Response

## Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi ...

I am writing this letter regarding one of your officers, Jesus Tejeda.

I can't say enough great things about him. He handled a situation for me better than I had hoped. His calm presence, patience and clear communication made an otherwise stressful experience far more manageable. It meant a great deal to feel supported and treated with such respect during a challenging time. His dedication to his work and your community is truly appreciated.

• Sincerely,  
Michael Dell'Armi, Small World Learning Center

## Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi ...

On behalf of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Bureau of Safety Programs and Engineering, thank you for your agency's efforts during the second quarter of the Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

STEP is designed to provide local law enforcement agencies the additional resources needed to save lives and improve community safety with high visibility enforcement of traffic-safety-related laws.

Because of your participation, Illinois has seen a decline in fatalities on roadways in 2024. Your agency is to be commended for conducting exceptional enforcement activities during the Super Bowl Impaired Driving Enforcement Campaign.

IDOT recognizes that your job is not always easy and your efforts go unnoticed, but the success of the STEP reflects the dedication and commitment your agency displays toward highway safety.

Thank you, your agency makes Illinois a safer place to travel.

• Sincerely,  
Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, P.E., PTOE, Bureau Chief  
Illinois Department of Transportation

## Dear Director of Police Sam Pitassi ...

On behalf of the team here at Lexipol, I'd like to extend our heartfelt congratulations on your achievement in policy management as part of the Lexipol Connect Recognition Program in 2024.

To highlight your dedication to updating and training on your policies, we are happy to present this plaque to your department to showcase your success this past year.

As a friendly reminder, we're also looking forward to our enhanced award program launching later this year. This new initiative will feature additional award categories across Lexipol's Policy, Training, Wellness, and Performance Reporting Solutions. Stay tuned for more details!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [info@lexipol.com](mailto:info@lexipol.com).

We are honored to partner with your agency and assist the important work of your department in protecting your communities.

• Sincerely,  
Mark Fordham, Chief Customer Officer, Lexipol

## Dear Deputy Police Chief Anthony Greco ...

On April 21, 2025, I learned that a Forest Park Police Department communications clerk committed a theft of currency from a found wallet that was turned into the Police Department by a citizen. This accusation was backed by security video evidence.

I initiated an internal investigation, but also wanted to pursue criminal charges against the communications clerk so I had our detectives open a criminal investigation. Consulting with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, our detectives were advised to have an outside agency conduct the criminal investigation since the suspect was a Forest Park Police Department employee.

Our detectives contacted the Melrose Park Police Department and you agreed to have your investigators look into the apparent wrongdoing by our communications clerk. Det. Jose Velazquez #17 and Det. Jessica Ortiz #49 were assigned to assist our agency.

I want to thank you for allowing Det. Velazquez and Det. Ortiz to assist us. The detectives were a great help and extremely professional. Ultimately, they closed their case in an extremely timely manner and the communications clerk was charged with one count of official misconduct on April 29, 2025. The time they took to investigate this matter is appreciated.

Thank you again.

• Sincerely,  
Chief Ken Gross, Forest Park Police Department

## MPPD Announces New Appointments, Promotions

At the village of Melrose Park May 27 board meeting, five Melrose Park police officers were appointed and

promoted to new positions within the Police Department as follows: Anthony Greco, appointed chief of Police; Michael Scudiero, appointed deputy chief of Police; Alfonso Rodriguez, appointed deputy chief of Police; Phillip Nocita, appointed to commander; and Bobby Anzaldi, Jr., appointed to lieutenant.

On a separate occasion earlier this year, police officer Steve Pesce was appointed to lieutenant as well.

The May appointments/promotions are effective as of July 1, 2025.



Newly appointed Police Chief Anthony Greco (center) and deputy chiefs Alfonso Rodriguez (left) and Michael Scudiero (right).



Pictured with the new police chief and deputy chiefs are recently promoted officers Phillip Nocita, commander (left), and Bobby Anzaldi, Jr., lieutenant (right).



Mayor Serpico and Lt. Steve Pesce.



Pictured with Mayor Serpico is newly appointed Police Chief Anthony Greco with his daughter Trista and son Anthony.

Mayor Serpico and the village of Melrose Park congratulate these fine men, and wish them and their families good luck as they embark on their new roles.

Thank you to all for your hard work and for always going above and beyond to keep Melrose Park safe for its residents and visitors to our community.



# Melrose Park Fire DepartmentNEWS



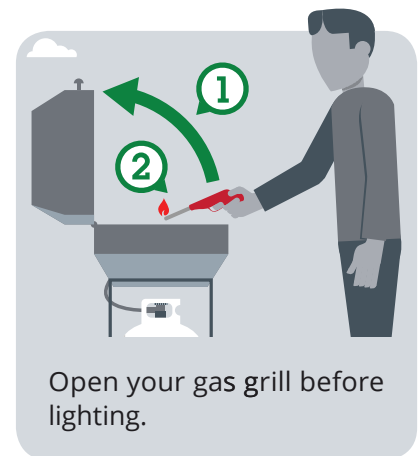
*Rick Beltrame  
Director of Fire Dept.*

## 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 grilling fire safety tips. Please follow these tips to ensure your family's well-being and safety!



Stay fire safe this summer! Follow these grilling safety tips.



**Stay fire safe this summer!**  
For more information and resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).





## 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](mailto:tips@melroseparkpd.com).

Visit the Melrose Park Police Department Website at [www.melroseparkpd.com](http://www.melroseparkpd.com) ...

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

The website can be translated to Spanish and Polish.



# Melrose Park Police Department 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](https://melroseparkpd.com)**

# MELROSE PARK

## DOORBELL CAMERA PROGRAM

The Village of Melrose Park is planning a program to help residents cover the cost of home doorbell cameras, while at the same time keeping our community safe.

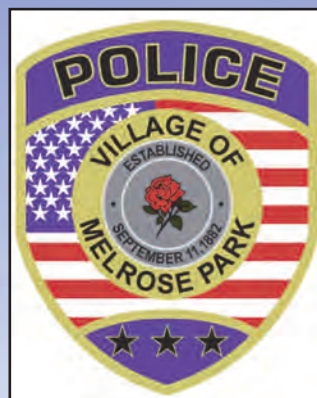
Residents who wish to participate in the new program can contact Deputy Chief of Police Anthony Greco at [cameras@melroseparkpd.com](mailto:cameras@melroseparkpd.com).

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

The form will be found at [www.melroseparkpd.com](http://www.melroseparkpd.com), and then choosing the Camera Program link on the side menu.

Receipts for camera systems must be provided for reimbursement after an inspection proves that the camera system is installed and properly functioning. Cameras including views of interior of a home not eligible.

The Melrose Park Police Department encourages all residents to participate in this important community safety initiative.



**MELROSE PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

1 N. Broadway Ave. Melrose Park, IL 60160

[www.MelroseParkPD.com](http://www.MelroseParkPD.com)



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."

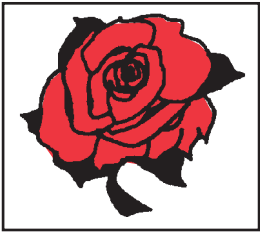
MELROSE PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

flock safety

[flocksafety.com](http://flocksafety.com)

(886) 901-1781 | [support@flocksafety.com](mailto:support@flocksafety.com)





# 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***

**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](mailto:peg@melrosepark.org))

or you can call  
(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448,  
for more information.



# 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.

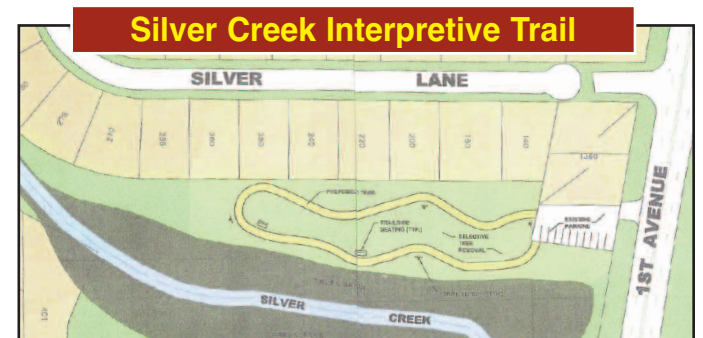
**Phase 5 and 6 of the  
Silver Creek Stabilization Project have been completed.  
Phase 7 is underway.**

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.

# Melrose Park Projects Continue ... We're Working Hard for You!

## Street Paving and Sidewalk Replacement Projects

The list of streets that have been worked on so far this year as part the 2025 Public Works Department Street Paving Project includes Park Drive, Sherman Street, Lee Avenue, Davis Street, Hirsch Street, 35th Avenue, 17th Avenue and some of Melrose Park's industrial area roadways.

The 2025 50/50 Sidewalk Program is well underway and many Melrose Park residents who chose to participate have already had the sidewalk squares adjacent to their homes replaced.

### Street Paving Project



### Sidewalk Program

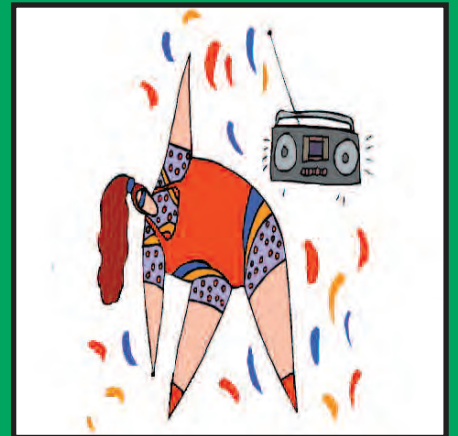




# Free Exercise for Melrose Park Seniors

*Socially  
Distanced  
Activity*

*Face  
Masks  
Required*

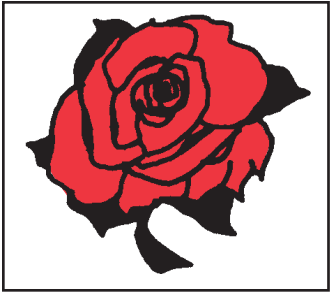


***Come Join in the Fun with  
Instructor Barb Rubright  
of Rube's Garage!***

**Monday-Friday • 9-10 a.m.**

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

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



# Village of Melrose Park Building 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

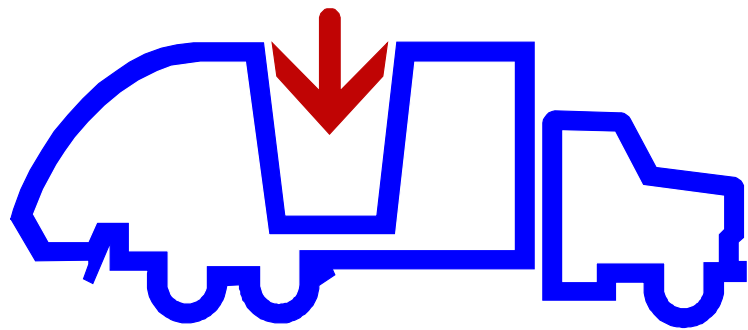
The Public Works Department kindly requests your help. Throughout the village's corporate boundaries there are many streets with curbside storm sewer catch basins, culverts and storm sewer pipes that are prone to trouble in heavy rains when they are blocked by leaves and grass clippings. The village 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](http://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 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](http://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.



# Melrose Park Public Safety News



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

## Know Your Risk When Severe Weather Occurs

Being prepared means learning about summer weather and water hazards such as hurricanes, heat, lightning, rip currents, air quality, tsunamis and wildfires.

Here's what you need to know:

- Since 2003, more than 40 states within the continental United States have come under a tornado watch; more than 45 states have come under severe thunderstorm watches; and lightning strikes have occurred in every state.
- Heat waves are common across the country during the summer. They are dangerous because the human body cannot cool itself properly when exposed to an extreme combination of heat and humidity.
- In 2015, there were 26 lightning fatalities. • Flash flooding is the number one killer associated with severe weather.
- Air pollution can make it harder for people with asthma and other respiratory diseases to breathe. Children and teens may be more sensitive than adults to the health effects caused by air pollution. According to the EPA, poor air quality is responsible in the U.S. for an estimated 60,000 premature deaths each year.

### Take Action

While the weather may be wild, you are not powerless. This summer, prepare for hazards with these simple steps:

- You may have only minutes to find shelter before a tornado strikes. Practice a family tornado drill at least once a year.
- Protect yourself from extreme heat by rescheduling outdoor activities to earlier in the day.
- There is no safe place outside when lightning is in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember, When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors.
- Whether on foot or in a car, if you encounter flood waters, Turn Around Don't Drown!
- Make sure to check the Air Quality Index for your area at <http://airnow.gov>. If the air quality is poor, avoid prolonged or extreme exertion outdoors.

### Be a Force of Nature

Your action can inspire others. Be a force of nature and share how you're working to stay safe from weather and water hazards this summer.

- Write a post on Facebook. Share with your friends and family the preparedness steps you're taking to stay safe this summer.
- Tweet that you're prepared with #SummerSafety. Tell us what you're doing to be prepared for summer hazards.
- Create a Family Communication Plan so that your loved ones know how to get in touch during an emergency. And let your friends know that they should create a plan also.
- Look for ways to help your town prepare, such as volunteering. Register for America's PrepareAthon! to learn how to stay safe during disasters.

With these steps, you'll be doing more than just protecting yourself – you'll help NOAA build a Weather-Ready Nation.

## Answer the Call...

### Melrose Park's Homeland Security and Public Safety Departments are NOW Recruiting!

- Interested in public safety, emergency services and first responder volunteer opportunities? Become a member of the Village of Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security and Public Safety.
- Team members gain real-world emergency services experience in the areas of police, fire, criminal justice, public safety, computer IT, telecommunications and weather-related disasters.
- Learn on state-of-the-art technologies and equipment that will give you expert training for potential career opportunities.
- We are seeking individuals who take pride in wearing the uniform and helping to provide public safety to our community.

### We are Currently Recruiting for ...

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

Questions? Please call us at (708) 649-8000 or email us today at [training@mpdhs.net](mailto:training@mpdhs.net) to join one of the most prestigious public safety departments in the region!

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

# **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](mailto: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.







# *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 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.

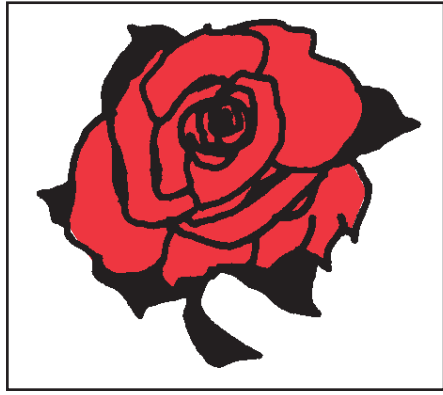
No permit is needed for garage sales, however the following rules must be followed:

- 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](http://www.melrosepark.org).





# 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.





www.mpplibrary.org



## Adult Programming July



2025  
Summer Reading Program

### Color Our World

Grab a book and log your summer reading!

Submit your log online Google Form or download a paper log.

Turn in your reading log EVERY FRIDAY to enter into the Weekly Raffle for a PRIZE!

At the end of the program, ALL ENTRIES will go into a drawing for GRAND PRIZES!

The program runs from May 30th to July 25th.

Check out our website for more details!

Age Group: Adults & Seniors

mpplibrary.org

Adults & Senior Summer Program

### AIR DRY CLAY POTTERY

Join us in discovering the endless possibilities of your creativity. You will be guided through this program exploring pottery with air dry clay to produce your own work of art.

Supplies will be provided.  
No prior experience is necessary for this program.

**Tuesday, July 8th @ 5:30 PM-6:30PM**

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

### COMPUTER HELP SESSION

Learn computers and become adept with the **one on one** help of our knowledgeable instructor.

**Learn New Skills:**

- Computer Basics
- E-Mail
- Microsoft Word
- Printing and more

**Monday 7th & July 21st @ 3:30 PM - 4:30 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**

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

**Register Now!**  
BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY...

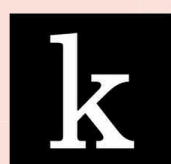
**2025 DATES**

- May 16th
- June 20th
- July 19th
- August 15th
- September 10th
- October 17th
- November 14th
- December 19th

## ★ Stream, Download, & More! ★



**Media on Demand | Libby app:** Borrow eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, & more--all for free!



**Kanopy:** Stream popular films, award-winning films, foreign films, kid's films, & documentaries without paying a dime.



**Freegal Music:** Access millions of songs to stream, to download, & to create your own playlists.



**Hoopla:** Read, listen, and watch eBooks, audiobooks, movies, music, comics, & TV shows with your library card.



**Comics Plus:** Enjoy unlimited access to 1000s of digital comics, graphic novels, & manga.



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



## Youth Services



### Online Storytimes & Make-It-Mondays



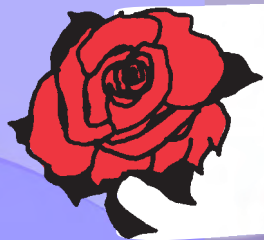
## July Programming



## Summer Reading Ends July 25th

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



## Youth Services





## July Programming



**Musical Play with ScribbleMonster**

Bring your dancing shoes and wild imagination to Melrose Park Public Library on July 18th, at 2pm for the award-winning music and play of Jim from ScribbleMonster and Our Show Today as seen on PBS. Using a mix of kindness, music and humor, ScribbleMonster's presentation encourages children to participate and think in creative ways.

**Thursday July 18th**  
**2pm - 3pm**  
**Registration Required**



**Watercolor Creations**

Let's create with watercolors!

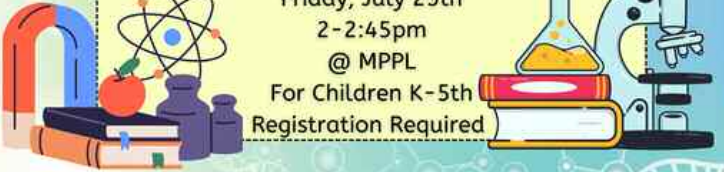
**Tuesday, July 22nd**  
**3 - 3:45pm**  
**For Children K-5th**  
**Registration Required**



**SCIENCE HEROES**


Through hands-on experiments and interactive stories, kids experience science that's all around us as we celebrate the scientists who color our world with art!

**Friday, July 25th**  
**2-2:45pm**  
**@ MPPL**  
**For Children K-5th**  
**Registration Required**



**Perler Bead Bonanza**

**Tuesday, July 29th**  
**3-4pm**  
**For K-5th Grade**  
**Registration Required**



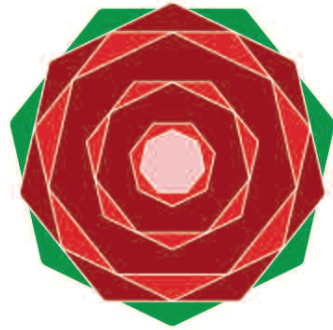
**ABC Adventures**

**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 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Welcome New Members

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) welcomed three new businesses as members to the chamber in May and June 2025, and now has over 225 current members. Please help us welcome Universal Metro Asian Services, the Village of Hillside and Margaritas Restaurant on their membership and partnership with the MPCCCD.

We also want to give special thanks to the nine businesses that renewed memberships during this period 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 Iskali; Marchan Consulting; Barton Staffing, Inc.; Old National Bank; USG Print Co.; Concare, Inc.; Melrose Commons Senior Residences; The Kids Lounge; and North Park Medical Group!

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development now has over 225 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](mailto: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/>.**

## 5 Stars Sports Hosts Chamber After Hours

On June 4, the MPCCCD held its quarterly Chamber After Hours Networking Event which was hosted and sponsored by 5 Stars Sports which was attended by over 85 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 to grow the chamber, and most importantly, for helping us to fuel growth in our community.

The chamber 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.

We would also like to thank Ivette Garcia, owner of 5 Stars Sports, Inc., and her team for hosting an outstanding event. 5 Stars Sports is located at 1150 N. 27th Ave., Melrose Park, and is a great place to hold your next event.





# Connecting Businesses to Resources

On June 17, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce hosted its monthly business breakfast and seminar featuring Andrew Madden of Madden Creative with a presentation on digital marketing strategies for small businesses.

This meeting was attended by 22 local business leaders and there was tremendous discussion and Q&A on how to get the best ROI on a business digital marketing effort, search engine optimization and selecting the best social media platform based on specific customer demographics, etc.



Madden Creative has made the entire PowerPoint presentation available and it can be downloaded by visiting [madden-creative.com/digital-marketing-strategies-for-business](https://madden-creative.com/digital-marketing-strategies-for-business).

Special thanks to Andrew Madden for the presentation and for providing some answers to the complexities in determining the best solution for a specific business.

Thanks to all who attended. To learn more about upcoming events, sign up for the chamber newsletters at <https://mpcccd.org>.

## Melrose Park Welcomes Three New Businesses



El Patio Mexican Grill

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

On May 15, Mayor Serpico and the MPCCCD Team joined the team from El Patio Mexican Grill to welcome customers and open the patio just in time for the summer. El Patio is located at 6 N. 19th Ave., Melrose Park!



Marathon Gas Station



There were two ribbon cuttings on May 29. First up was the newly remodeled Marathon Gas Station, conveniently located at 3301 Lake St., Melrose Park. As part of the remodel, the station now offers an expanded assortment in the convenience store for those always needing grab and go items.

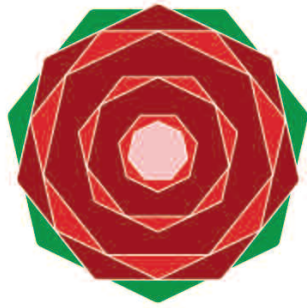
Next up, we joined the team at Margaritas Restaurant located at 112 N. 19th Ave., for the official ribbon cutting as they welcomed customers to a new dining experience while enjoying authentic Mexican dishes with a refined touch. Treat yourself to an unforgettable dining experience today at Margaritas.



Margaritas Restaurant







## MELROSE PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Access to Capital Seminar and Panel Discussion

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development is hosting its Annual Access to Capital seminar on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 8:30-10 a.m., and it will be held at 900 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park.

Lenders from multiple local financial institutions will be on hand to discuss traditional and special programs available to help businesses get access to capital needed to fuel growth and innovation in existing businesses as well as funding opportunities for people looking to start a new business venture.

The Access to Capital Seminar has become a regular event on the MPCCCD calendar based on feedback from attendees at past events. Mark your calendars for this one as you will have an opportunity to meet with multiple lenders at one time to determine the best solution for your business.

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

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

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

## Melrose Park Hosts National Night Out for Public Safety, Tuesday, Aug. 5

The village of Melrose Park is proud to announce its annual National Night Out for Public Safety event, taking place on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 6-9 p.m., at the Melrose Park Civic Center, located at 1000 N. 25th Ave. This exciting community-wide event is open to residents of all ages and promises an engaging evening focused on neighborhood unity, public safety awareness and family-friendly fun.

Hosted in partnership with the Melrose Park Police, Fire, Public Safety, and Homeland Security departments, this year's National Night Out will also feature participation from local and regional public safety agencies, bringing together a diverse group of first responders and professionals committed to community service and protection. There will also be local businesses and organizations on hand distributing giveaways to our residents.

Event highlights will include public safety exhibits and demonstrations, emergency vehicle and equipment displays, interactive activities for kids and families, community building resources and informational booths, and complimentary refreshments.

"National Night Out is more than an event – it's a statement that Melrose Park stands together to support one another and to strengthen the bonds between residents and our public safety professionals," said Mayor Ronald M. Serpico. "This gathering is an important tradition that builds trust, educates our community, and celebrates the men and women who protect our neighborhoods every day."

The village of Melrose Park encourages all families, neighbors and civic groups to attend and take part in this important evening. National Night Out is a nationwide initiative that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie, helping to make our communities safer and more caring places to live.

Join us on Tuesday, Aug. 5, and be a part of the movement to keep Melrose Park strong, safe and united.



# Melrose Park's Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 19 to Host Inaugural Co-Ed Softball Tournament



**14in MUSH COED DOUBLE ELIMINATION SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**

**MICKINZIE-VERTUNO FOP LODGE 19 1ST INVITAIONAL**

**★ AUGUST 16TH 2025**

**BULGER PARK  
1601 W HIRSCH ST, MELROSE PARK IL  
TOURNAMENT STARTS 8AM**

**★ 1ST PLACE \$700  
2ND PLACE \$350  
TROPHIES INCLUDED**

**★ RAFFLE PRIZES**

**★ FOOD & ALCOHOL  
WILL BE SOLD**

**14 TEAMS MAX**

**\$350 PER TEAM  
REGISTER BY  
JULY 17TH 2025**

**INFO & TO REGISTER  
CONTACT JOCELYN  
(708) 407-3251**

The village of Melrose Park is proud to announce the Melrose Park Police Department's Fraternal Order of Police Mickinzie-Vertuno Lodge 19's 1st Annual Co-Ed 14" Mush Ball Double Elimination Softball Tournament, taking place on Saturday, Aug. 16, at Bulger Park (1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park). The tournament will begin promptly at 8 a.m.

This exciting community event welcomes co-ed teams from across the region to compete in a fun, spirited and family-friendly environment. A maximum of 14 teams will compete in this double-elimination format, with cash prizes and trophies awarded to top finishers: •

- 1st Place: \$700.

- 2nd Place: \$350.

The entry fee is \$350 per team, and the registration deadline is July 17. Interested participants can register and get more information by contacting Jocelyn at (708) 407-3251.

Beyond the tournament action, attendees can enjoy raffle prizes, great food and beverages on site. It's an ideal summer day out for players, families and community supporters.

"This tournament represents the strength of our partnership with the FOP Lodge 19 and our commitment to fostering unity, health and celebration within our community," said Mayor Ron Serpico, village of Melrose Park. "We invite residents and visitors alike to join the Melrose Park Police Department for what promises to be a fantastic inaugural event."

The village thanks the Melrose Park Police Department FOP, all organizers, volunteers and sponsors who are making this event possible, and looks forward to establishing this tournament as an annual tradition that celebrates camaraderie, community pride and the spirit of fair play.





# 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.**

**Your Melrose Park Real Estate Specialist  
Handling All of 560 Illinois Town Properties  
Selling, Buying, Investing Property Representative  
For the Good, Bad and Ugly of All Properties  
50 Years Experience Any Type of Real Estate**

**RON FABIANI**

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



**EVERYTHING I TOUCH TURNS INTO  
SOLD, LEASING AND NEGOTIATED  
HANDLING 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



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](http://www.scouting.org).



*Elio Bartolotta*  
eliocafe1@gmail.com

C. 630.935.1688  
R. 630.628.0088

520 W. Lake St.  
Addison, IL 60101

[eliopizzaonfire.com](http://eliopizzaonfire.com)







**Your Financial Help Makes This All Possible!**

***Mayor  
Ronald M. Serpico***



**Celebrating Our 43rd Year**

**August 29th, 30th & 31st**



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.

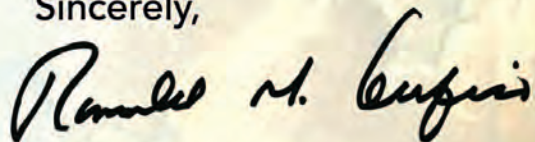
With your financial support, we can continue to host this wonderful family-oriented event and keep our food prices at \$5 or less per serving, despite rising food costs.

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 31.

For additional information, please feel free to email our Taste of Melrose Park Director, Peggy DiFazio, or Lorena Anguiano at [taste@melrosepark.org](mailto: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](mailto: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)



**T-Shirt Sponsorships  
are No Longer  
Available!**



### \$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 30 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 July 11 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 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

T-Shirt Sponsorships are  
No Longer Available!

\_\_\_\_ \$1,000.00 VIDEO WALL SPONSOR

\_\_\_\_ \$850.00 3 X 4 COLOR BANNER

\_\_\_\_ \$500.00 2 x 4 COLOR BILLBOARD

\_\_\_\_ OTHER

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

### Important – Please Read!

No later than July 11, 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](mailto: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](mailto:taste@melrosepark.org)



# TASTE OF MELROSE PARK 2025 FOOD VENUE

**ALL ITEMS PRICED AT \$5 OR LESS**

Camaci's Italian Sausage  
Camaci's Arancini  
Tom's Steak House Saganaki  
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 Stars 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"  
Iannelli's Panzerotti  
Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish Food Trays



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





# Entertainment Schedule

## 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

## 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!



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)

## Continuous Free Entertainment All Weekend Long!

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



**Village of  
Melrose Park**

## COMMUNITY NOTICE



### Winston Plaza Hosts Free Cinema Nights

Come join us under the stars!

Visit Winston Plaza for free

Open Air Cinema Nights –

• Wednesday, July 2 ... *Wicked*.

• Wednesday, Aug. 6 ... *Minecraft*.

Gates open at 6 p.m., movies start at 7 p.m.

Limited seating will be available,  
feel free to bring your own blankets and chairs.

Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/open-air-cinemas-at-winston-plaza-tickets-1378041913459](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/open-air-cinemas-at-winston-plaza-tickets-1378041913459) for reservation info.



### 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](http://MelrosePark.org).

### Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

The Melrose Park Village Hall will be closed for the following holidays: 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, Illinois, 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: July 28; Aug. 25; Sept. 22; Oct. 27; Nov. 24; and Dec. 22.

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

### Melrose Park Can Help You Remove Unwanted Animals From Your Home

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





# Community Cares for Canines – Melrose Park Hosts Packed Wellness Clinic



On Saturday, May 17, the Village of Melrose Park Civic Center transformed into a hub of canine care as nearly 100 dogs received free health services during the Dog Wellness Clinic. The event was a collaborative effort between Mayor Ron Serpico, Cook County Animal and Rabies Control, and the Anti-Cruelty Society. Services provided included physical exams, core vaccinations, microchipping, training tips and pet supplies.

The clinic aimed to make essential veterinary care accessible to all pet owners, particularly those facing financial challenges. By offering these services free of charge, the event helped ensure that dogs in the community remain healthy and safe.

Mayor Ron Serpico emphasized the significance of such initiatives, stating, "Events like these are vital for our community. They not only promote the health and well-being of our pets, but also strengthen the bond between residents and their furry companions."

The success of the clinic highlights the community's commitment to animal welfare and the importance of providing resources to pet owners. Organizers hope to continue offering similar events in the future to support the health of pets throughout Melrose Park.





# Veterans Park District

## Programs & Happenings

### Camps

#### Pee Wee Tot Camp at Bulger Park 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, July 7-31, 9-11:45 a.m.; Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch Street, 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.

#### Summer Day Camp in Melrose Park and Northlake Ages 6-12

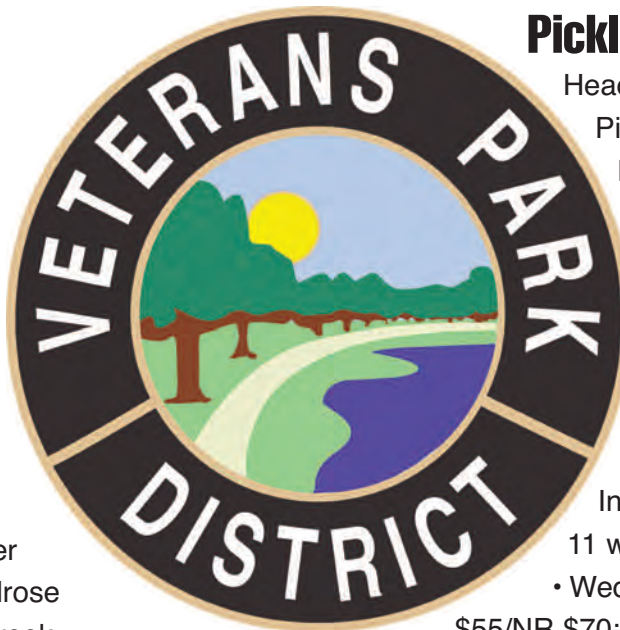
Make lasting memories with old friends and new ones through exciting off-site field trips, all-camp swim days, themed arts and crafts, friendly competitions, wacky games and fund park party events! Our dedicated, trained staff foster teamwork, boost self-confidence and work to improve social skills in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

- Monday-Friday, July 14-Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake, and Bulger Park, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – R \$400/NR \$450. Extended hours are available R \$75/NR \$105 for Before Care 8-9 a.m., and R \$150/NR \$210 for After Care.

### Fitness

#### 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, Youth Fitness, AquaZumba and Aquacize. Call Cimbalo Fitness Center at (708) 343-5151 for more information



### Pickleball Lessons

Head over to Cimbalo Fitness Center to check out our 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 skill levels. Please call (708) 343-5151 for more information.

#### Youth Athletics 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.

### Baseball

#### Ages 8-12

This class will cover the basic skills and drills in baseball. A slow-paced class that will cover throwing, catching, fielding and hitting.

- Fridays, July 14-Aug. 4, Noon-1 p.m.; Fee – R \$55/NR \$70; Bulger Park Field, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park.



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



# CONNECT WITH US!



**Cuomo To Go**  
25 E. North Ave. • Northlake Ill.  
**Chef-prepared daily meals, salads,  
sandwiches, desserts and much more!**  
**Take home HOT or COLD!**  
**Visit our website -CuomoToGo.com.**  
Delivery available through GrubHub and DoorDash.





# Veterans Park District Programs & Happenings

Relax under the stars and enjoy our **FREE MOVIES IN THE PARK.**

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS OR BLANKETS. YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS. REMEMBER, THAT ALCOHOL AND DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON PARK PROPERTIES. MOVIES START AFTER SUNDOWN.

Call (708) 343-5270 or check the VPD Facebook page for rain out details.

**FREE FRESH POPCORN**  
(while supplies last)

**June 11**  
Gouin Park, Franklin Park  
Featuring: **Surf's Up 2: Wavemania**

**June 25**  
Bulger Park, Melrose Park  
Featuring: **Space Jam: A New Legacy**  
(PG 1h 55m)

**July 9**  
Grant Park, Northlake  
Featuring: **If**  
(PG 1h 44m)

**August 6**  
Trumbull Park, River Grove  
Featuring: **Free Willy**  
(PG 1h 52m)

*Thanks for attending these exciting VPD community movies! Join Us on July 9 and Aug. 6.*

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



(708) 343-5270 | [VPDPARK.ORG](http://VPDPARK.ORG) | FOLLOW US ON







**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.



(708) 343-5270 | [VPDPARK.ORG](http://VPDPARK.ORG) | FOLLOW US ON







## 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](https://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](mailto:gregstanczyk@vpdpark.org)

  
Become  
a program/event  
**SPONSOR**



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**Veterans  
Park  
District**

*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
<b>Departure:</b> 10 AM from Grant Park Recreation Center			
<b>Return:</b> 5:30 PM			



(708) 343-5270 | [VPDPARK.ORG](http://VPDPARK.ORG) | FOLLOW US ON







## Veterans Park District

## Programs & Happenings



# music in the park

Become  
a program/event  
**SPONSOR**



SCAN ME



Escape the midweek hustle and join us for an unforgettable night of live music!  
Band starts at 7PM. Our patio bar will open at 6 PM serving cold beer and wine.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**AUGUST 13 • 7-9 PM**

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park  
1800 Riverwoods Dr., Melrose Park  
(in the back of the complex by the forest)

### THE FLAT CATS

The Flat Cats play a range of vintage and modern music rooted in the hottest swinging jazz and blues, contemporary classics, and timeless standards. The group is comprised of six talented musicians with years of performing, arranging, and composing experience.



**WEDNESDAY**  
**AUGUST 20 • 7-9:30 PM**

Bulger Park Community Center  
1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park

### CHARLES & COMPANY

Charles & Company is a band of seasoned musicians that play a wide selection of music. The Charles & Company show consist of dance music from Motown, Classic Rock, Swing, Blues, to Standards, Reggae and 50s. They might even throw in a Polka.



Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, snacks or pack a picnic. Dogs are **not** allowed on park properties.  
All VPD Special Event dates, locations and advertised activities are subject to change.  
Please visit [vpdpark.org](http://vpdpark.org) or our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/vdparks](https://www.facebook.com/vdparks) for updates.

(708) 343-5270 | [VPDPARK.ORG](http://VPDPARK.ORG) | FOLLOW US ON







**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.**



Community Nutrition Network  
and Senior Services Association



# You Can Change a Life!

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

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



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

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





## SUCCEED WITH STYLE!

C+B

COSMETOLOGY +  
BARBER PROGRAM

 Triton College

### Cosmetology Program

Working alongside Triton's established Barber Certificate Program, the cosmetology track opens the door to a fast-growing field with a variety of career paths – from salons and spas to fashion, entertainment and entrepreneurship. Industry demand is rising, with job openings for hairstylists, estheticians and nail technicians projected to grow steadily in the coming years.



For information about our Cosmetology Program, go to [triton.edu/cosmetology](https://triton.edu/cosmetology) or scan the QR code.

### Barber Program

Are you ready to turn your passion for style and grooming into a rewarding career? The Barber Certificate Program at Triton College provides hands-on training, industry knowledge and professional certification preparation to help you succeed in the field of barbering. Join us at Triton College and take the first step toward a dynamic career in barbering. Your future starts here!



For information about our Barber Program, go to [triton.edu/barber](https://triton.edu/barber) or scan the QR code.





# Triton College NEWS

## Jarrell David Elected Triton College Student Trustee

Jarrell David of Broadview, Illinois, is the new student trustee for Triton College's Board of Trustees for the 2025-2026 academic year. David, a high school student enrolled in Triton's Dual Degree Program, will serve as the official student representative, acting as a liaison between the student body and the college's governing board.



Jarrell David

"Serving as the student trustee at Triton College is just a steppingstone," added David. "I want to have a future in politics and eventually become the president of the United States."

David is currently a student at Proviso Mathematics and Science Academy and a student in Triton's Early College Program, which allows students to earn both high school and college credit simultaneously. His commitment to civic engagement and education is already evident – he was appointed Chairman of the Young Democratic Party of Proviso by Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, lead-

ing to Maywood Mayor Nathaniel George Booker asking him to be his assistant.

"Jarrell is going to bring a new perspective and youth engagement to Triton College," said Village of Maywood President Nathaniel George Booker. "He's going to be intentional with bringing a sense of community to Triton. He's going to be motivated."

David said his desire to serve as student trustee stems from a passion for leadership and a belief in the power of education.

"Triton breaks down barriers and opens doors," said David. "At Triton, anybody can receive a great education. Education is the greatest equalizer to equity in this nation."

Born in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, David moved to Broadview at age 2 with his mother, who sought a fresh start for their family. He has lived in the community ever since and credits his upbringing – and the support of his great-grandmother – with shaping his values and determination.

As student trustee, David wants to ensure students' voices are heard. "Students want somebody that's going to speak unapologetically and honestly for them," said David. "Now that I'm elected, my goal is to build student and community relations at Triton."

Following Triton, David plans to attend Morehouse College, a historically Black institution in Atlanta and alma mater of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He hopes to pursue a law degree and a long-term career in politics.

## Triton College Introduces New Cosmetology Certificate Program

Triton College is excited to announce the launch of a new Cosmetology Certificate Program, designed to provide students with a comprehensive education in both the art and science of cosmetology. Beginning this fall, the program will feature a curriculum that blends hands-on training with academic instruction and will work in tandem with the college's existing Barber Certificate Program.

"Triton's Cosmetology Certificate Program is both cost and time effective," said Donita Mitchell, Cosmetology faculty. "There are endless possibilities for success."

"Triton College is responding to the requests of our district high schools, as well as our surrounding communities," added Dr. Troy Moran, dean of Triton's Health Careers and Public Service Programs. There is strong demand for this program and community colleges strive to meet the needs of our residents, he said.

New learning facilities for the Cosmetology and Barber Program are set to be constructed in Triton College's M Building. The space will include salon chairs and grooming stations, along with an expanded reception area, manicure and pedicure stations – creating a real-world salon environment for student learning.

According to Dr. Moran, community residents will be able to make an appointment for a range of services.

"Our instructors will guide students and clients, teaching and supervising," said Dr. Moran. The certificate and learning facilities are great new additions for our campus community.

As for the program itself, Dr. Moran noted that students will gain knowledge on all aspects of cosmetology, including coloring, cutting, waxing, eyebrow services, weaves, wigs and esthetic, among other skills. Students will also learn about human anatomy and the nervous system, with a focus on the head, hands and feet. As the program grows, Dr. Moran hopes to add more class schedules that would cater to a wider variety of prospective students.

Students will learn about scalp diseases and disorders, anatomy of nails, hair relaxers, product knowledge, hair extension, skin care and much more.

The Cosmetology Certificate Program requires 50 credit hours, equivalent to 1,500 clock hours required by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Courses will follow an eight-week format, allowing students to focus intensively on fewer subjects at a time and to maintain a flexible schedule. Upon completion, students will be eligible to take the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Professional Regulation, Licensing Exam.

In addition to a high-quality education, Triton's Cosmetology Certificate Program is much more affordable than many larger cosmetology schools, where tuition can exceed \$22,000 per year, not including additional fees and costs.

Dr. Moran also emphasized the entrepreneurial spirit and skills students will gain, including inventory management and front desk operations.

"At Triton College, we want students to be empowered and create their own pathways of success and change," said Dr. Moran.

For more information on Triton College's Cosmetology Program, visit [triton.edu/cosmetology](http://triton.edu/cosmetology).



# NEWS89 **School District 89 BRIEFS**

## Celebrating the Class of 2025: District 89 Middle School Graduation



On May 21-22, District 89 proudly celebrated the achievements of nearly 400 middle school graduates during three inspiring ceremonies held at Proviso East High School. Families, staff and community members gathered to honor the Class of 2025 from Irving Middle School, Stevenson Middle School and Washington Dual Language Academy.

The ceremonies were filled with pride and excitement as students crossed the stage, marking the end of their elementary journey and the beginning of their high school experience. Each graduate represented hard work, growth and resilience, especially after years shaped by unique challenges and accomplishments.

Students showcased their talents through musical and vocal performances, bringing energy, joy and heartfelt emotion to the event. Their contributions highlighted the creativity and spirit of the graduating class.



Guests were also inspired by thoughtful and empowering messages from special speakers: Judge Michael Buron, associate judge of DuPage County; Roberto Sepulveda, Inclusion and Belonging consultant; and Melissa Sepulveda, director of Bilingual Services. Each speaker encouraged students to embrace their potential and continue striving for excellence.

District 89 extends heartfelt thanks to our board of education members, district leaders and building principals for their continued support and leadership in guiding our students toward success.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025! We are proud of everything you've achieved and can't wait to see what your future holds!

## Melrose Park Wins D89 All-Sports Trophy ... Fourth Year in a Row!

### Elementary Competition Celebrates Athletic Excellence Across the District

For the fourth consecutive year, District 89 proudly awarded the All-Sports Traveling Trophy to the elementary school with the most athletic achievements. This annual competition includes Boys and Girls Cross Country, Basketball, Soccer, Coed Softball and Cheer, with points awarded to first-, second- and third-place teams.

This year's champion is Melrose Park Elementary, earning 48 points through four first-place finishes and one third-place finish!

Final Standings: Melrose Park – 48; Washington Dual Language Academy – 38; Emerson – 27; Jane Addams – 27; Lincoln – 18; Roosevelt – 10; and Garfield – 8.

Congratulations to all our elementary athletes for their sportsmanship, hard work and teamwork this year!





# Summer Learning is Underway in District 89!



From Monday, June 4-Tuesday, July 3, 2025, District 89 is proud to offer a dynamic Summer Learning experience designed to keep young minds engaged, curious and growing.

This year’s program offers a half-day academic schedule for all grade levels, with the option to stay for an extended day of enrichment. Afternoon sessions provide hands-on opportunities in STEM, art and music, allowing students to explore their creativity while reinforcing academic skills.

Our Bilingual Department is also offering three specialized programs to support emergent bilingual students this summer:

- Radiant Conversations (grades 2-7): Interactive language-building activities help students gain confidence in English through engaging and meaningful conversations.
- Camp Power Up (Pre-K): This early learning program introduces bilingual students to foundational English vocabulary and prepares them for success in school.
- New to Dual: Spanish Immersion (Grades K-1): Designed for students entering dual-language classrooms, this program helps them strengthen their Spanish skills in a fun, immersive environment.

These summer programs not only support academic and language growth, but also foster friendships, confidence and a lifelong love of learning.



## Stevenson Makes History with First Varsity Soccer Championship

In May, Stevenson Middle School’s girls varsity soccer team made history by winning their first-ever West Suburban Conference Championship. In a thrilling final match against top-seeded Unity. The Lady Pirates battled to a 3-3 tie and triumphed in the shootout, 2-0.

With goals by Veda Baumann and Blanca Salazar, who also stepped in as goalkeeper, along with clutch shootout goals by Grecia Rios and Samantha Chavez, the team secured a historic victory and an unforgettable season.

Congrats to the Lady Pirates, their coaches and the Stevenson community!





**Congrats to  
School  
District 89  
Graduates,  
Class  
of  
2025!**



**DISTRICT 89**  
MAYWOOD | MELROSE PARK | BROADVIEW





## A Message from Tim Bouman, Head of School Greetings from Walther!

At the end of May, the 56 students from the Class of 2025 proudly crossed the stage and graduated. This marked my sixth Walther graduation as principal – and my last. As careful readers of *We Are Walther* know, I am NOT leaving – just moving full-time to head of school as we welcome Walther's next principal, Dr. Terence Swims. If I'm being honest, it is a bittersweet moment for me. I have loved serving in the role as principal, and while there have been the usual ups and downs (and a global pandemic to manage), overall it has been a joy and a privilege.

At the same time, I am really excited about Walther's future. I believe that Dr. Swims will bring fresh energy, enthusiasm, creativity and joy to the Walther community. And I am really looking forward to continuing the work of implementing our strategic priorities and making moves to not only secure Walther's future for the next generation, but also to keep our school growing and improving. Walther is in a good place right now and one can feel the Holy Spirit at work. I'm excited for Walther's future and I invite you to stay engaged and join us in nurturing and preparing tomorrow's learners to fulfill their unique God-given potential.

– Have a blessed summer,  
Tim Bouman, Head of School, Walther Christian Academy

## From Our Advancement Director Homecoming 2025

Homecoming activities will take place this year on Oct. 3-4 with an Alumni Dinner and Concert on Friday evening and an Athletic Hall of Fame Induction and football game on Saturday.

Now is a great time to start planning your class reunion. We can help in the following ways:

- Contact information for classmates.
- Promoting your reunion through email and social media.
- Collecting money for tickets.

We would love to see a large number of alumni return this fall. Let us know how we can help.

– Bill Koehne '87, Director of Advancement, Walther Christian Academy

## Walther Graduation

On June 1, we celebrated our 56 seniors as they completed their time at Walther and began a new journey. The graduates and those in attendance heard an inspiring address from Ashraf Amaya '89, and beautiful music from our choir and band.

God's blessings to our graduates as they move on to college, trades or the workforce. Come back and see us often. You will always be part of the Walther family!

## Walther Alumni Spotlight

Joshua Easter, Walther Class of 2010 and Cody Cotton, Walther Class of 2012, are executives with A Greater Good Foundation (AGGF), a non-profit organization focused on mentoring youth, building community and modeling wellness. Joshua and Cody, along with Walther grads Anthony Garland '11 and Patrell Green '12, and friend Charles Carter, founded the organization with the goal of holistically mentoring youth. Joshua serves as chief operating officer while Cody is the organization's chief of heart.



Joshua and Cody

"We were all college athletes. When that ends, most athletes experience a bit of an identity crisis," explained Cody. "Thankfully, we had been introduced to personal development, the values and principles of character, and were interested in life coaching. That allowed us to have an identity of more than an athlete." Joshua added, "We wanted to make an impact on teens, but wanted to be more than Twitter and Facebook warriors."

AGGF focuses on the power of self-education, unique experiences, wellness and service to inspire young people and communities to live more holistic lives. Initially, AGGF worked with youth at MECA Elementary, a Christian school in Bellwood. Their first unique experience was taking a group of youth from MECA to Niagara Falls. Early on they also worked with West40, an organization that provides alternative schooling in west Cook County where they continue to mentor youth who had been removed from their schools for a variety of reasons. Since 2018, AGGF has worked closely with the Oak Park Library's Teen Services Department and more recently has begun programs in some local colleges working with first-generation students on how to navigate college and life.

In their nine years of existence, AGGF has served over 2,000 students, conducted more than 15,000 hours of mentorship, held nearly 500 restorative circles, taken students on 36 unique experiences including trips to

Columbia and Cuba, and has eight ongoing programs. Their work spans the city of Chicago and several surrounding suburbs reflecting a broader commitment to serving communities in need across the Chicagoland area.

Both Joshua and Cody give credit to Walther for laying the groundwork for what they are doing today with AGGF. Joshua shared, "First, I made great



connections with friends who we ended up partnering with. I appreciate that we were able to learn in a safe environment and learned how to learn. Unlike many of my college teammates, I was academically prepared to succeed in college. My experiences through athletics and service hours in different environments put life into perspective.” Cody added, “I appreciated the opportunity to be involved in student council, choir and drama in addition to sports. The time management and discipline I learned at Walther still carry me through life today. The Christian values I experienced are the reason I now send my kids to private school.”

Both also credited their coaches at Walther for teaching them a lot about life and helping them become the men they are today. The list included coaches Tuomi, Bo, Hoger, Muzzall, Heuser, Orr, Perry, Mack, Eberhard, Pederson, Gillingham, Jackson, Benke, Christian, Bishop and both Koehnes.

If you wish to learn more about A Greater Good Foundation, check out their website or follow on Instagram @agreatergoodfoundation.

We look forward to following Joshua and Cody and see where they take A Greater Good Foundation in the years to come.

## Spring Sports Update

Boys volleyball finished their season 13-13 after a 1-8 start. They were the Chicago Prep Conference (CPC) regular season champions (9-1) and the conference tournament runner-up. All-conference awards went to seniors Vinnie Del Vescovo and Sebastian Rivera-Azurdia, and junior Esteban Lopez.

Girls softball finished 13-9 overall and 6-0 in the CPC. They were CPC regular season champions and conference tournament runner-up. All-conference players included C-Selah Argueta (junior), P-Bella Ziupsnys (senior), SS-Kariya Perez (sophomore) and CF-Leslie Anguiano (junior).

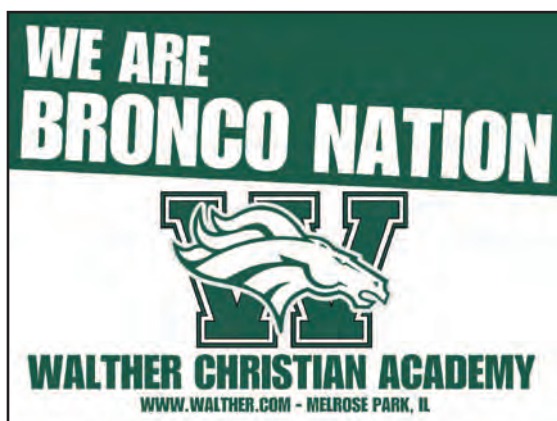
Boys baseball ended with a record of 8-14, 5-7 in the CPC. All-Conference selections included C-Dillon Carey (junior) and CF-Terrence Sorter (freshman).

Girls soccer finished the season 6-8, but had a strong showing in the conference tournament winning their first two matches before falling in the championship game. Goalie, Jayla Pernell (junior) was named MVP of the conference tournament.

Both the girls and boys track teams finished third at their conference meets. Event champions included Tristan Williams (sophomore-110H), Carter Powell (senior-LJ), Jonah Winkelman (senior-TJ), and the girls 4x100 relay team of Zion Stovall (junior), KeMani Grafreed (sophomore), Gaby Reeves (sophomore) and Tamia Allen (junior). The girls 4x200M relay team of Stovall, Grafreed, Allen and Janiya Freeman (sophomore) qualified for the state meet.

The Middle School boys track team finished 17th at the LSA State Meet with 10 points. Carmelo Thompson led the way placing fourth in the 200 and eighth in the 100. Abraham Peacock placed sixth in the 100 and the 4x200 relay team placed eighth.

## Help Us Promote Walther



Do you live in the area? Are you willing to display a yard sign? We have new signs available. Stop by the school office, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., to pick one up and then share your story when someone asks.

# 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.**



# 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)



### 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.

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

  
MISSIONARIES OF ST. CHARLES  
**SCALABRINIANS**



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# A Message from Fr. Leandro Fossá , C.S., Pastor Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish and Shrine THE 132ND FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL IS COMING – SUNDAY, JULY 13!

Dear Devotees, Parishioners and Friends of Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

I greet and welcome all of you to our beautiful and joyful 132nd Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, certain that we all together rejoice in our Mother's arms with gratitude for her tender intercession for all of us.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is a center of genuine religious devotion to the Blessed Mother, a sacred place of prayer, recollection, and spiritual refreshment with a full program of sacramental and pastoral activities. Our mission will be to promote devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to all its parishioners and the community at large. On this celebration of the 132nd anniversary of the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, I want to invite all the devotees and those who love the Blessed Virgin Mary to enjoy our Feast.

Last year, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel welcomed you with renovations and fresh views. After more than three decades, the parish has decided to change the carpet, acquire new pews and bring the baptismal fountain to the main church space. The community wants to announce that more renovations will happen in the new school bathrooms, new school entrance hall and St. Anthony's Room. Please see the renderings of the many projects to further remodel and keep the church and shrine up to maintenance standards and functioning accordingly.

Therein, we need your participation, and I invite you to come out to the Novena and see the difference in the walls of the shrine, the confessionals, the front door adjustments, the handicap accessibility and the recently remodeled Saint's Room. My dear friends, it is a wonderful time to get together, to pray and to ask our Mother Virgin Mary of Carmel to intercede for our needs with these fresh views and repairs. Moreover, we need you.

I want to commend all those participating and applaud the arduous work of our Feast Committee and Altar & Rosary. They have worked tirelessly for so many moments to organize the novena and feast days because they love this parish and tremendously care for the devotees of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Allow me also to recognize and commend all those who have conducted our devotion and tradition to La Madonna del Carmine for so many years. We do realize how much our community has been reshaping its image. I want to acknowledge Mayor Ronald Serpico and all the workers of the village of Melrose Park that make this Feast possible as well.

Every July, the Parish and Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel pray and process in the streets of Melrose Park. All of us who are here feel that this event is the effort of a whole town, a community loved and blessed by Madonna del Carmine. And this year we pray on the streets of this town because we know that Our Mother will always protect us.

Lastly, "mille grazie" and I am certain that you will continue loving, venerating and supporting La Madonna del Carmine, and I pray that the Blessed Virgin Mother of Mount Carmel embraces and presents you and your entire family to Her Son Jesus asking to pour His grace and blessings upon you to experience the tenderness and sweetness of Our Lady's loving intercession.

Blessings to all of you. Bendiciones a todos ustedes. Benedizioni a voi tutti.

VIVA LA MADONNA DEL CARMINE

Rev. Leandro Fossá, C.S., Pastor,  
and the Entire Feast Committee of OLMC





Join us in celebrating the 132nd anniversary of

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

## 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



### JULY 4-12

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

### TUESDAY, JULY 8

7 pm Banner Presentation

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

6 pm Rose Presentation

### THURSDAY, JULY 10

7 pm Memorial Service for deceased members of Feast Committee  
Caliendo's Banda Napoletana marches through the streets

### FRIDAY, JULY 11

6 pm Feast Celebration Dinner

### SATURDAY, JULY 12

3 pm Mass in Spanish  
5:30 pm 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 am Mass in English

9 am Solemn Mass in Italian

10:30 am Statue leaves Church in Procession to the Field Mass

Noon Field Mass on Church grounds with Bishop Robert Lombardo,  
Fr. David Mowry, Fr. Leandro, Fossá, CS, Fr. Marvin Ajic, CS,  
Fr. Richard Bezzegato, CS, Fr. Ernesto Esqueda, CS

1:30 pm Traditional Procession continues through the streets

4 pm Statue returns to Church, followed by Benediction

5 pm Mass in Spanish

**Ad Book  
available for  
our sponsors  
& friends!**

### VISIT OUR SPECIAL EXHIBITION!

Apparitions of Our Blessed Mother at Marian Shrines in the World

*(Created by St. Carlo Acutis)*

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

*Actual Feast Day of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel*

6:30 pm Trilingual Mass with Bishop Maldonado & 30 Scalabrinian priests

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

[www.olmcparish.org](http://www.olmcparish.org) | [www.facebook.com/olmcparish](https://www.facebook.com/olmcparish) | [feast.olmc@gmail.com](mailto:feast.olmc@gmail.com) | 708.344.4140



# AUGUST 2025

## Special Masses & Events



*Feast of*  
**ST ROCCO**

**3**

10:30am Bilingual Mass: Italian • English  
Follow by procession  
Reception at the Parish Gym

*Solemnity of the*  
**ASSUMPTION OF  
THE BLESSED  
VIRGIN MARY**



**14**

7:00pm VIGIL Mass, Chapel  
Bilingual English/Italian  
Reflection by Fr Tom McCarthy  
Reception at the Parish Gym

**15**

Holy Rosary and Mass  
8:00am English  
6:30pm Spanish

*Beginning*  
**CCD**



**16 • 17**

Parents  
Orientation

**23 • 24**

Parents and Kids  
Assignments:  
classrooms • catechists



*Special Event*  
**OUR LADY  
OF FATIMA**

**21**

10:30am - 5:30pm Individual meditation  
5:30pm - 6:30pm Holy Hour with CCD  
6:30pm - 7:00pm Banner Presentation  
7:00pm - 8:00pm Solemn Holy Mass  
8:00pm - 9:00pm Rosary by A&R Confessions  
9:00pm Closing Prayer

*Parish*  
**OPEN HOUSE**

**24**

"COME AND SEE" All Parish Groups  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Get to know all the events and groups of our Parish



*Mass for*  
**PADRE PIO**

**24**

Mass for Padre Pio  
10:30 am Italian  
Followed by reception

**OUR LADY OF  
MOUNT CARMEL**

📍 1101 N. 23rd Ave. Melrose Park, IL  
☎ (708) 344 - 4140  
🌐 [www.olmcparish.org](http://www.olmcparish.org)



# Special Event at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

*This year  
we have a  
special exhibition  
during the Feast  
about the  
apparitions of the  
Virgin Mary.  
We invite you to  
visit the gym to  
experience this  
work started by  
blessed  
Carlo Acutis.*

**“Welcome! We are thrilled to have you join us for this exhibition dedicated to the Virgin Mary. We hope you enjoy exploring all 154 appearances testifying to the strong presence of the Virgin Mary over the centuries around the world. We are excited to share this experience with you and look forward to your insightful thoughts and reactions.”**



**S**ervant of God Carlo Acutis, as an expert catechist, had continually sought to find increasingly new ways to help others reinforce their faith. For this reason he bequeathed to us as an inheritance his Exhibitions, among which is the very notable one on **Eucharistic Miracles**. It was precisely in 2002, while visiting the expositions of the Meeting of Rimini, that Carlo had decided to organize an exhibition on the Eucharistic Miracles recognized by the Church. A demanding commitment in which even his family members were involved for nearly two and a half years. The spiritual effects being brought about by this Exhibition were unpredictable on the eve of the project. To this day we can affirm that the Exhibition has been hosted in all 5 Continents thanks to the generous contribution of several very special people, among whom stand out the members of the *Real Presence Eucharistic Education and Adoration Association* who assisted so very much in this undertaking.

Finally in 2014 we have succeeded in bringing also to completion this exhibition, dedicated to the **Virgin Mary**, which Carlo had initiated in 2006 but was unable to finish due to the sudden onset of a fulminating leukemia that brought him to Heaven within a few days. The young Servant of God Carlo Acutis was profoundly marked in his spiritual journey by the Virgin Mary, *“humble and high beyond any creature”* (Dante Alighieri), and he established from the inception the objective of imitating her in all of her virtues. The Virgin Mary was for him the highest example of purity and of unconditional love for God. Mary Most Holy revealed to mankind the image of that which the Church, a wanderer upon the earth, will be one day — at the end of this world. We know that for each Christian, holiness is achieved only through an intense life of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Of all three of these theological virtues, Carlo wrote that Mary **“is an exemplary model and**

**her example of faith, supported by her perfect charity, must encourage us to continue in our journey toward holiness regardless of our fragility.”**

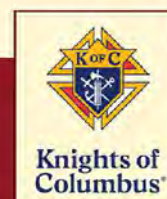
Because of this, the motive is well understood that drove Carlo to be continually interested in all of the manifestations of the Virgin Mary which, for more than two millennia, like very bright stars, have illuminated the path for multitudes of people. **“Surely”,** Carlo said, **“the miracles accomplished by the Virgin Mary during her apparitions on earth can be of a great help to increase the Faith of many people... How can they be ignored”**, he often asked, **“the appeals that Our Lady gave us? And yet”,** he said, **“knowing our little Faith, in her maternal goodness, the Blessed Mother wanted to work countless numbers of miracles precisely to help us to believe, yet despite these amazing signs many, still today, remain so indifferent!”** Carlo used to say that **“many people seek signs from Heaven to reinforce their Faith, but there are also many who unfortunately do not even seek them and if by chance they find them, intentionally ignore them because they are too preoccupied with worldly things.”** However, he never lost spirit, because he nourished in his heart the ever lively hope that, sooner or later, the Guardian Angels would have created favorable circumstances in order to sensitize souls that were distant from God to embark upon a life more consistent with His Laws. Our wish, like Carlo’s, is that through this exhibition many will rediscover the path which leads to God and that they, too, are able to become bearers of light to all those who are still in darkness.

**154  
panels  
translated  
in different  
languages**

**The exhibition will be in the gym from**

**Friday, July 4 to Wednesday, July 9 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**except on Sunday, July 6 which will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.**





Join us in celebrating the annual feast of  
**BEATO GIOVANNI LICCIO DI CACCAMO**



**JULY 20, 2025**

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel • 1101 23rd Ave, Melrose Park



**NEW LOCATION!!!**

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**

**SUNDAY, JULY 20**

**10:00 AM - INVOCATION**

**10:30 PM - SOLEMN MASS**

Mt. Carmel Choir - Liliana Bartalotta (Director)

**PROCESSION FOLLOWING MASS**

**4:00 PM - FACE PAINTING &**

**BALLOON TWISTING**

**4:00 PM - BENJAMIN DeLOS MONTEROS**



**FOOD, DESSERTS, & COFFEE  
 WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PURCHASE  
 BY SICILIAN BAKERY**

**JOIN US IN THE FESTIVITIES CELEBRATING THE  
 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE RELIC OF BEATO GIOVANNI LICCIO**

Cappella Beato Giovanni Liccio • 7459 W. Addison • Chicago

**JULY 13-19, INVOCATION @ 7:00PM - SOLEMN MASS @ 7:30PM**

**INVOCATION MASS • July 13-19 at 7:30pm**

**For more information, Call or Email: [beato.giovanni.chicago@gmail.com](mailto:beato.giovanni.chicago@gmail.com)**

**Tony Sapienza**  
 630-935-6998

**Giuseppe Perna**  
 224-875-2220

**Matteo Sanfratello**  
 847-878-1413

**Mary Gall**  
 773-426-6758

**Cristian Alaimo**  
 312-363-8617

*Sponsored by the Societa Beato Giovanni Liccio of Chicago*

*Special  
 Event  
 at  
 Our  
 Lady of  
 Mount  
 Carmel*



# **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother**

## **Vigil Mass and Reflection by**

*Special Event at  
Our Lady of  
Mount Carmel*



**Fr. Tom McCarthy,**

**from the Shrine of**

**St. Rita**

**Thursday, August 14,  
2025**

**Fr. Tom returns to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel for an evening of**

**Rosary, Prayer, Reflection, and Discussion.**

**If you missed him during his last visit, now is your chance to hear him as he reflects on the Blessed Mother and gives insight to the influence by the Augustinians and Pope Leo XVI and what it means to be a Catholic today. (a preview for his upcoming retreat on Saturday, September 13.)**

**7:00pm Rosary in the Shrine followed by Mass and Reflection in the Church.**

**An outdoor reception will follow. All are welcome.**

**There is no fee, but registration is required. Please call the office, or Lucia, to register.**

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine – Melrose Park, IL 60160 708/344-4140**



**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine**

# **PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE OF FATIMA** **PARISH VISITATION**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025**  
**SCHEDULE**

**10:00am -5:30pm** Adoration of the  
Holy Eucharist &  
Our Lady of Fatima  
*Individual Meditation*

**5:30pm – 6:30pm** Holy Hour led by  
Catechism class  
*Benediction*

**6:30pm –7:30pm** Banner Presentation  
Tri-Lingual  
Mass & Crowning

**7:30pm – 7:45pm** Rosary.....led by  
Altar & Rosary

**7:45pm -** Confession &  
Individual Meditation

**8:30pm -** Closing  
Prayers & Blessings

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine**  
**1101 N 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue**  
**Melrose Park, IL 60160**  
**708-344-4140**



*Special Event at  
Our Lady of  
Mount Carmel*





# SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

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



1825 S. 9th Ave., Maywood, IL



## Religious Education News

*"Catechesis is an education in the faith of children, young people and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life." Catechism of the Catholic Church, Prologue 1-25 (II. Handing on the Faith: Catechesis)*

**T**he Religious Education Program (REP) operates under the direction of the policies and procedures of the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is a **consecutive two year** program per Sacrament.

The REP is here to prepare children for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Our program strives to deepen faith, personal encounters and relationships with Jesus Christ.

Our commitment as of Catechist is to catechize the Faith of the Roman Catholic Church, both by word and example.

### FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION (Two Year Program per Sacrament)

Registration Requirements:

- Baptism Certificate
- Birth Certificate
- 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Certificate (for 1<sup>st</sup> year of Confirmation)

Registration Days (REP office is closed if Rectory Office is closed)

**MON/TUES/THURS/FRI**

**10:00am to 4:00pm**

**SATURDAYS**

**10:00am to 2:00pm**

Call our REP office or check our website to confirm Saturday hours.



Scan the **QR Code** shown here with a smartphone to be directed to our parish's REP webpage where you may view all information related to our program in English or Spanish including registration fees.



Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish  
Religious Education Office  
819 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Ave Melrose Park  
Phone 708-344-0757 ext. 105





# SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH



WEBSITE: [shsparish.org](http://shsparish.org)

PHONE: 708-344-0757

EMAIL: [shseparish@archchicago.org](mailto: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

**July 17 & July 31, August 14 & 28** 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](http://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**



# RED, WHITE & WIN!

**HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE!**

**OPEN DAILY  
9AM – MIDNIGHT!**

**.....  
2209 DIVISION #4  
MELROSE PARK, IL  
708.710.7294**



**COMPLIMENTARY  
PIZZA ON THURSDAYS!**

**.....  
\$2 COORS LIGHT**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**EXCLUSIVE MONTHLY PROMOTIONS  
FOR MORE WAYS TO WIN!**

## \$10 MATCH PLAY

**Valid Tuesdays & Wednesdays 4pm – 12am throughout July & August**



**Play \$10.00 and we will play an additional  
\$10.00 on the machine of your choice.  
See a staff member to walk you through the process.**

**2209 Division #4 • Melrose Park, IL 60160**

CUSTOMER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Must be 21 or older to game. No purchase necessary. Management reserves all rights. Redeem this coupon to receive \$10 Match Play at the awarding establishment. Match Play is offered and provided exclusively by the awarding establishment. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, crisis counseling and referral services can be accessed by calling 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537) or text "GAMB" to 833234. Individuals can enroll in the IGB Self-Exclusion Program at all of the IGB offices located at all casinos. Additional information can be found at <https://www.igb.illinois.gov/selfexclusion>.



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**



**GAMING PROVIDED BY  
UNIVERSAL GAMING GROUP**



Must be 21 or older to game. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, crisis counseling and referral services can be accessed by calling 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537) or text "GAMB" to 833234. Individuals can enroll in the IGB Self-Exclusion Program at all of the IGB offices located at all casinos. Additional information can be found at <https://www.igb.illinois.gov/selfexclusion>.



# Super Hot Slots ... Ice Cold Beverages ... Loads of Fun!

## Cafe Gaspar's Got it Going!



Cafe Gaspar gaming cafe opened its doors in 2024 with a warm welcome to members of the Melrose Park community.

Proprietor Len Gassmann, lifelong resident of Melrose Park and retired Melrose Park firefighter, went above and beyond with his creative talent when he went to work designing the inside of his unique gambling parlor.

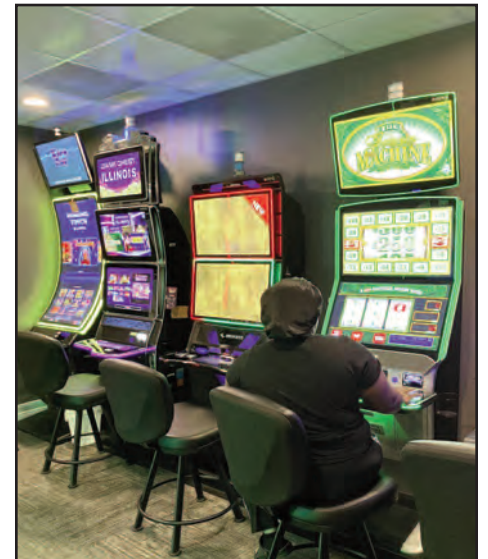
The cozy venue features a warm and friendly atmosphere with comfortable, spacious seating that suits all players and big, bright machines that make you feel like you're in Las Vegas. The kitchen/bar area is nicely set up with some of the finest beverages and snacks for everyone to enjoy.

While you're there, you need to check out the assortment of nostalgic photos that adorn the walls showcasing Melrose Park's one-of-a-kind past ... bringing back some historic memories! Pictures of old restaurants, individuals who shaped the Melrose Park community, and entertainment and recreational spots are highlighted in the incredible display.

If you're looking for some hot slots and want to go home a big winner, stop by Cafe Gaspar and enjoy a fun, relaxing ambiance with some warm hospitality. We want you to go home a big winner with pockets full of bucks!

The cafe, located at 2209 Division St. (22nd Avenue and Division), is open every day of the week 9 a.m.-midnight, with complimentary pizza served every Thursday night and monthly promotions that give you more ways to win!

Need more info, give us a call – (708) 710-7294.







# Proviso Township Handyman Program

## Summer 2025 – Proviso Township Handyman News

Time to enjoy your garden and listen to the birds sing. We can help you bring out your summer furniture so you can enjoy the warmth of the sun. It's also time to caulk around your windows.

Are you watering your garden or lawn? Do you notice your outdoor spigot drips after you turn it off?  
Keep your water bills from skyrocketing by having your spigot checked.

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 • Tommy Olson  
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 - <b>No Rodding</b>
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	



**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 • Tommy Olson, Trustee**

***Here to Serve Melrose Park & Surrounding Communities***

***Thank You Mayor Serpico!***



**TOWNSHIP OF PROVISO**  
4565 Harrison St.  
Hillside, IL 60162  
P: 708-449-4307  
F: 708-202-1265  
[www.provisotownship.com](http://www.provisotownship.com)





*Illinois State Representative*  
**NORMA HERNANDEZ**  
*77th District*



*Illinois State Representative  
Norma Hernandez*

## Springfield Updates ... State Rep. Norma Hernandez Passes Three Bills and State Budget Out of Both Houses



In Springfield, State Rep. Norma Hernandez has achieved significant legislative success. Three impactful bills, prioritizing the well-being of Illinois residents, have been successfully passed by both houses. These bills include measures to bolster mental health support on college campuses, guarantee transparency among disability service providers and honor student leaders contributing to state education boards.

These legislative wins are a direct result of Rep. Hernandez's deep commitment to equity, accountability and well-being for all Illinoisans.

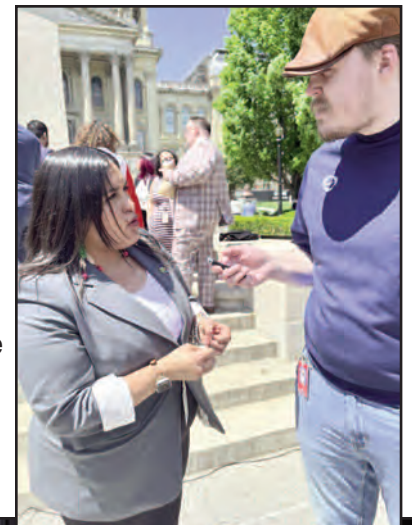
### Here's a Closer Look at the Impactful Measures She's Led

Mental health is health. With HB3385, Rep. Hernandez strengthens the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act by ensuring Illinois colleges and universities are equipped to meet student mental health needs. This legislation mandates a minimum of three licensed mental health profes-

sionals on each campus. It broadens accessibility by permitting services through both face-to-face interactions and telehealth options. Furthermore, it promotes inclusivity by requiring policies to be crafted by a diverse group of campus representatives, encompassing administrators, faculty, and mental health experts.

The passing of HB3160 by Rep. Hernandez is bringing greater transparency and accountability to how the state supports individuals with developmental disabilities. The bill requires the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to provide every home and community-based service provider with an updated, detailed rate sheet for each client they serve, at least once a year. Additionally, whenever providers submit updated information that impacts a client's reimbursement rate, IDHS must issue a revised rate sheet within 60 working days. These sheets must clearly outline the full formula used to calculate the rate, giving providers the financial clarity they need to plan effectively and deliver consistent, quality care.

Rep. Hernandez understands the value of student voices in shaping education policy. With SB1475, she is helping to recognize and support the contributions of students who serve on the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board. The bill provides a \$500 scholarship award to each student board member for every semester they are enrolled in school while serving on these boards. This measure not only eases the financial burden on student leaders, but also encourages greater civic engagement and representation in state-level decision-making.



## 77th District of Illinois Hosts Expungement Information Session and Workshop in Melrose Park

This spring marked an exciting milestone for our community as State Rep. Norma Hernandez hosted her first-ever legal aid clinic in partnership with Congressman Jesús "Chuy" García. The clinic, held in collaboration with Beyond Legal Aid and the Cook County Circuit Court's Office, was a powerful demonstration of what can be achieved when elected officials, legal experts and community organizations come together with a shared goal to empower individuals and remove barriers to opportunity.

From the moment registration opened, demand was clear. All available appointment slots were quickly reserved, and the clinic team ensured that walk-ins were also welcomed and accommodated. Attendees represented a wide cross section of our district, young adults, families, seniors and individuals looking to rebuild after past challenges. For many, this was the first time they had direct access to legal professionals in a setting that was welcoming,



free of charge, and rooted in dignity and respect. The clinic provided services focused on record expungement and sealing, legal rights education and



navigation of public services. Experienced attorneys and paralegals from Beyond Legal Aid and partners from the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office were on hand to offer one-on-one consulta-

tions, assistance with legal paperwork and guidance on next steps.

The event began with a comprehensive and engaging presentation from a Beyond Legal Aid lawyer along with the clerk's office chiming in as well. They broke down the legal processes related to expungement sealing, while explaining eligibility criteria, and connecting the dots between past legal issues and future employment, and education opportunities. Many participants expressed how helpful it was to receive this information in a clear, supportive format, especially for those who had previously felt overwhelmed or unsure of where to begin.

At the end of the day, everyone left with something, whether it was a completed expungement application, next steps for further legal action or simply a renewed sense of hope.

In the meantime, stay connected through Rep. Hernandez's website and social media channels for updates on future events, workshops and resources. Together, we can continue to build a stronger, more just community, one where everyone has the tools they need to succeed.



# Hernandez Ends Third IL-77 Youth Engagement Programming with a Blast!



On May 12, State Rep. Norma Hernandez proudly concluded her third successful Youth Program, the IL-77 Student Advisory Assembly. This celebration marked another milestone in her commitment to engaging young minds in local governance and community leadership. This year's program came to a fitting close with Rep. Hernandez personally presenting certificates to the group of passionate Illinois 77th District high school and college students, celebrating their contributions and achievements.

The Student Advisory Assembly gave a unique platform for student leaders to directly engage with the legislative process and their local government. The program consisted of 10 students selected through a competitive application process, with a mix of high school and college students from the 77th District. Among the group were a speaker and secretary from Triton College and the College of DuPage, alongside student representatives from a local high school district. These students attended school



board meetings, participated in monthly general body meetings and played an active role in shaping discussions on key community issues.

During their final meeting, the participants engaged in a personal writing activity where they shared words of advice for future participants, leaving a lasting legacy of mentorship for the next cohort. In a lighthearted twist, the group played an exciting game of Mexican Lotería, with special rewards that had everyone eagerly participating. The grand prize winner was given the unique opportunity to "Be Rep. Hernandez for a Day," shadowing the representative and experiencing a day in the life of a state legislator. The second winner enjoyed an exclusive lunch with Rep. Hernandez, fostering meaningful connections between students and their elected officials. Truly an unforgettable moment for these young leaders. Needless to say, the closing event was filled with both reflection and fun!

The program's success wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of the students involved, who displayed outstanding commitment and enthusiasm throughout the year. Their hard work and dedication have set a high standard for future participants, and their efforts will surely inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

Rep. Hernandez's continued investment in the next generation of leaders ensures that the Illinois 77th District will remain a place where young voices are heard, valued and empowered to make a real difference in their communities. We look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of these young leaders and are excited to welcome the next group of young leaders in the future! Stay tuned!





*Cook County Commissioner  
Frank J. Aguilar*



## IMPORTANT NEWS FROM

# FRANK J. AGUILAR

## COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER

# Cook County Board Approves Funding for Second Phase of Down Payment Assistance Program

On Thursday, June 12, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved \$8.6 million to support a second phase of the Cook County Down Payment Assistance Program, which will assist residents in the homebuying process.

Lenders that are part of the program have access to funding – and more lenders are encouraged to join the program.

“Part of the American Dream is homeownership and this program has helped that dream become reality for hundreds of Cook County households,” said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. “I’m grateful to the Cook County Board of Commissioners for its support of a second round of funding and we look forward to helping even more people as they look to purchase a home. My administration is committed to making Cook County a viable place to live, work and raise a family.”

The second phase of the Cook County Down Payment Assistance Program comes in the wake of a \$3 million pilot program that launched in 2024 and assisted in the purchase of over 200 homes countywide.

As part of the program, the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development partners with Stifel, Inc., an investment banking firm, and Club 720 Solutions LLC, which helps individuals achieve homeownership by providing access to down payment assistance programs, coaching and educational resources.

The Cook County Down Payment Assistance Program provides subsidies equal to 5% of the home's sale price, up to \$25,000. Subsidies can assist with down payments, closing costs or interest-rate buydowns for homes located in Cook County.

“For many individuals and their families, the main avenue for generational wealth and long-term financial security is home ownership,” said Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. “But not all potential homeowners are the same. Ensuring we are taking steps and supporting programs that help increase the access people have to home ownership is critical in supporting our constituents and the communities where they want to build a life.”

The assistance is provided as a forgivable second loan over a five-year term. Households with an annual income at or below 120% of the area median income (AMI) are eligible. For a family of four, this is \$143,880.

For those buying in disproportionately impacted areas or qualified census tracts, there is no income limit. Applicants must also have a minimum credit score of 620.

All first-time homebuyers – which include those purchasing a home for the first time in three years – must complete a nationally accredited course through a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-approved housing counseling agency before closing.

Homes may include single-family homes, townhomes or condominiums.

During the pilot program, participants received an average of \$15,000 in assistance and 80% of participants were first-time homebuyers. The program allowed buyers to access homes priced from \$200,000 to \$400,000, which had previously been considered beyond their means.

The Cook County Down Payment Assistance Program is part of a broader commitment by the county to expand affordable housing access and create equity in homeownership across the region.

Club 720 will host biweekly virtual workshops that will educate homebuyers about eligibility, how to apply and how to work with participating lenders. These sessions, available in English and Spanish, will feature expert housing counselors, real estate professionals and lending partners.

For more information, whether you're a homebuyer or interested lender, visit [club720.org/cookcounty-dpa/](https://club720.org/cookcounty-dpa/).



# Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar Thanks EMRS Director Ted Berger for His Service

## Director Berger Steered the 16th District Through Multiple “Once-in-a-Century” Weather Events

Cook County’s Executive Director of the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (EMRS) Ted Berger has announced that he is leaving his position. In his role, Director Berger helped navigate Cook County, and especially the 16th District, through multiple “once-in-a-century” weather events, including the devastating storms and subsequent flooding in the summer of 2023.

“I’d like to send my deepest gratitude to Director Ted Berger and his team for all their work in the 16th District and the entire county,” said Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. “These situations were literally life or death. The quick and decisive actions taken by the EMRS team, including the incredible cooperation between first responders and local officials on many levels, allowed us to keep residents safe and get aid delivered to those in need. Thank you, Ted!”

Director Berger was always extremely proactive, making sure that local municipalities and their leadership were equipped with the tools and resources they needed to protect their communities from severe weather. When weather events occurred, Commissioner Aguilar knew that Director Berger and the EMRS team would be immediately available to deploy whatever emergency services were needed to maintain safety for both people and property.

The quick and decisive actions Director Berger instructed his team to take, saved lives, homes and businesses, and was crucial in maintaining order in affected communities. Under his direction, the EMRS teams were deployed within the hour to clear debris, restore power and help coordinate cleanup efforts.

“Ted Berger’s leadership has made Cook County stronger, more resilient and better prepared for the future,” said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. “Whether guiding us through the COVID-19 pandemic or responding to historic natural disasters, Ted led with clarity, compassion and purpose. We are grateful for his service and proud to see him continue this important work at the state level.”

Director Berger also worked closely with Commissioner Aguilar, local municipal officials, and both the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Illinois Emergency Management Agency to accurately document damages, report them to the necessary aid agencies, and ensure that municipalities, homeowners and businesses had successfully applied for the relief they needed to rebuild.

Due to the efforts of Director Berger, Commissioner Aguilar and local officials, the 16th District received over \$290 million in residential and homeowner support and over \$100 million in business support through federal agencies.

“On behalf of the Cook County Department Emergency Management and Regional Security, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Ted Berger for his outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication,” said EMRS Interim Executive Director Angela Gilkes. “Ted’s commitment to public safety, collaboration and emergency preparedness has left a lasting impact on our department and the communities we serve. It has been an honor to work alongside him and we look forward to continuing to partner with him in his new role.”

Although leaving Cook County, Ted Berger will still be keeping his expertise in government. Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker has appointed him director of Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security. While Commissioner Aguilar hopes that Cook County and the 16th District will be spared from future major weather events, he knows that Ted Berger will always support the municipalities and residents of Cook County and Illinois when they are in need.

## Commissioner Aguilar Attends Melrose Park Legislative Breakfast

On Monday, April 14, Cook County Commissioner Aguilar joined elected officials and community leaders for the Melrose Park Legislative Breakfast. Commissioner Aguilar had great conversations with attendees, talking about further ways Cook County can support initiatives at the state and municipal level. Thank you to everyone who attended and to the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development for hosting.



*Cook County Commissioner is pictured with Illinois Senate President Don Harmon at the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development Legislative Breakfast.*





## News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

# Giannoulias Cracks Down on Unlawful Use of License Plate Reader Data Office Conducting Audit to Ensure Use of Reader Data is Compliant with Illinois Law

Following reports that Texas police illegally accessed Illinois automatic license plate reader (ALPR) data to track down a woman for an abortion care-related matter, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced new measures aimed at preventing further abuse.

In May, law enforcement authorities in Texas performed a nationwide search of more than 83,000 ALPR cameras to locate a woman they said had a self-administered abortion. Included in the search were cameras located in states where abortion is legal – including Illinois, specifically Mount Prospect in suburban Cook County.

In 2023, Giannoulias spearheaded first-in-the-nation legislation making it illegal for law enforcement in other states to use ALPR cameras to track or penalize individuals seeking abortion care or criminalize a person's immigration status.

"License plate readers can serve as an important tool for law enforcement, but these cameras must be regulated so they aren't abused for surveillance, tracking the data of innocent people or criminalizing lawful behavior," Giannoulias said. "No one seeking legal health care services in Illinois should face harassment or jail – period."

"Illinois has taken major steps that protect immigrant rights and reproductive rights, but these policies are only effective if the law is followed," said Lawrence Benito, executive director of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant Rights. "We thank the Secretary of State for shutting off access to out-of-state authorities and protecting all people coming through our state."

"At Personal PAC, we work hard with our partners in government, like Secretary Giannoulias, to pass laws that protect abortion in Illinois," said Sarah Garza Resnick, CEO of Personal PAC. "Patients rely on Illinois for abortion access that they need and it is on us to ensure that their right to receive that care is protected in our state. We applaud Secretary Giannoulias for taking swift action in looking into the alleged violations of the ALPR data act."

In response to this breach, the Secretary of State's Office instructed Flock Safety, which operates the ALPR network in question, to immediately shut off access for the out-of-state authorities illegally using the system. The office has also contacted the Illinois Attorney General's Office to investigate the matter and is establishing an audit system with additional safeguards to ensure any law enforcement entity using an ALPR in Illinois is adhering to the law.

Under the act, which took effect in 2024, law enforcement agencies must attest that ALPR data will not be used to prosecute or enforce another state's laws pertaining to abortion care or immigration status. If a law enforcement agency violates this agreement, they jeopardize their access to Illinois ALPR data and eligibility for federal and state grants.

In the recent case, Mount Prospect's ALPR settings provided a gateway into Illinois' system operated by Flock for an unauthorized use, despite the Texas police stating that the reason for the search was related to abortion care. Any law enforcement entity operating the ALPR must adhere to the declaration in the law and deny such requests, according to the act. Between Jan. 14 and April 30, there were 262 searches for immigration-related matters in Mount Prospect, alone.

The law still allows police to use ALPR technology for investigating felonies, carjackings, vehicle thefts and missing person alerts, but it protects a person's right to abortion access and prevents attempts to criminalize a person's immigration status.

Operated by private companies, ALPRs are used in every state by most metropolitan police departments to scan license plates and provide the time and location of vehicles in real time. ALPR technology allows police to read thousands of license plates per minute from cameras placed on roadways, streetlights and squad cars.

## Giannoulias Warns About the Rise in DMV Text Scams Do Not Respond or Open Links in Unsolicited Texts

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias is warning Illinoisans to keep on the lookout for text message scams claiming to be from the "Illinois State Department of Motor Vehicles" that threaten to suspend vehicle registration and driving privileges.

The text messages are phishing attempts designed to trick residents into giving up personal or financial information. Recipients should not respond or open any links found in unsolicited texts and emails.

"Phishing scams are unfortunately an increasingly prevalent threat in our modern society, seeking to cheat Illinoisans out of their personal information and hard-earned money," Giannoulias said. "Please remain vigilant to avoid these scams and report them to protect yourself and others from falling victim to fraud schemes."

The office only sends text messages to remind residents about scheduled DMV appointments. It does not send text messages regarding driver's license or vehicle registration status.

Illinoisans are encouraged to report scam attempts to the Federal Trade Commission by visiting [reportfraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov).



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# Giannoulas Honors Organ & Tissue Donation Poster Contest Winners

## Over 500 Statewide Entries Submitted

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas has announced the winners of the office's 2025 Organ & Tissue Donor Poster Contest.

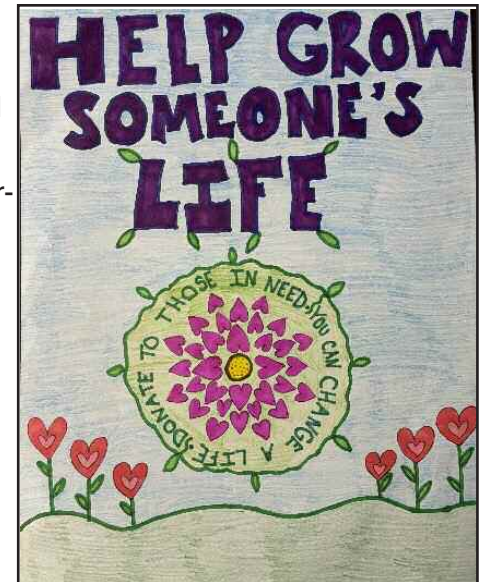
Katherine Bersnak, a fifth grader at St. Francis Xavier School in suburban La Grange took the top prize. The Secretary of State's Office will distribute Katherine's poster to schools, libraries and DMVs throughout the state to encourage Illinoisans to sign up to become organ and tissue donors.

"As we highlight the importance of organ donation, it's important to encourage and empower young people and provide them with the knowledge and tools to become advocates in their communities and amplify their voices for positive change," Giannoulas said. "Congratulations to each of the winners and all the contest participants who remind us of simple actions we can take to inform Illinoisans and save lives. We're proud to showcase their creative talents and promote their work."

The poster contest, held to spread awareness on the importance of organ and tissue donation during National Donate Life Month, offered Illinois students a creative outlet to showcase organ and tissue donation. This year's contest attracted over 500 submissions from communities across Illinois.

Each of the winners received gift cards to Barnes & Noble bookstore and copies of their posters mounted on foam poster-board. The winners of each category for the 2025 organ and tissue donor poster contest are:

- K-Second Grade Category
  - Kyala Perez, second grade, Charles R. Henderson Elementary School, Chicago.
- Third-Fifth Grade Category and Overall Winner
  - Katherine Bersnak, fifth grade, St. Francis Xavier School, La Grange.
- Sixth-Eighth Grade Winner
  - Faith Gregson, eighth grade, St. John the Baptist Catholic School, Red Bud.
- Ninth-12th Grade Category and Overall Winner
  - Wren Grajewski, freshman, Carterville High School, Carterville.



*The winning poster submission.*

Currently, there are nearly 6.5 million people registered to become organ/tissue donors in Illinois. Nearly 4,000 individuals are currently on the waiting list and about 300 people die each year waiting for an organ transplant. One donor can save or improve up to 25 lives. To register to become an organ/tissue donor, visit [ilsos.gov](https://ilsos.gov).

## Giannoulas Unveils Statewide Organ and Tissue Donation Campaign

### Ads Highlight the Lifesaving "Ripple Effect" of the Decision to Donate

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas has launched a public awareness campaign encouraging Illinoisans to spark a lifesaving "ripple effect" by becoming organ donors.

The ad, which is the first in a series building on the positive ripple effects of organ donation, has began running on broadcast television, digital and social media platforms across the state.

"Some 4,000 Illinois residents are in need of a transplant, including many whose lives hang in the balance waiting for the availability of a suitable organ," Giannoulas said. "By choosing to become an organ donor, Illinoisans can catalyze a cascade of positive action, empowering recipients to pay the gift forward by helping those around them."

In the illustrative narrative, a firefighter who was granted the gift of life through organ donation saves a tutor at the scene of an accident, who in turn helps a young student earn admission into college. The story is rooted in real-world accounts of organ recipients starting a chain reaction of positive change with their second chance at life.

Illinois has one of the largest registries in the nation, averaging over 20,000 sign-ups per month across DMV facilities, with around 6.5 million total current registrants. A single donor can save or improve the lives of up to 25 people.

Approximately 4,000 people are on the transplant waiting list and tragically about 300 die waiting for a transplant every year.

To become a donor, Illinoisans can register with the Secretary of State's Organ and Tissue Donor Registry by visiting [LifeGoesOn.com](https://LifeGoesOn.com), calling (800) 210-2106 or signing up at the DMV.





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

## **Observing 529 Day, Treasurer Michael Frerichs Encourages Families to Save for Future Education Costs Through 529 College Savings Accounts**

State Treasurer Michael Frerichs recognized 529 Day on May 29 by reminding Illinois families that now is always a good time to save for a child's future education by opening or adding to a Bright Start 529 account.

"When a child knows he or she has a college savings plan, that child is three times more likely to attend college," Frerichs said. "When an adult opens and contributes to a child's savings account, it sends a powerful message to the child, 'I believe in you.'"

Bright Start is a 529 College Savings Plan that can be used at eligible educational institutions, including public and private schools; two-year and four-year colleges and universities; technical and vocational schools; and registered apprenticeship programs. Illinois taxpayers receive tax benefits for contributing to an Illinois 529 plan and the investment grows tax-free when spent on qualified expenses. Families have the option to open a Bright Start 529 account online or, for those who prefer to work with a financial advisor, Treasurer Frerichs also administers the Bright Directions Advisor-Guided 529 College Savings Plan.

Anyone can contribute to an account, and there are no enrollment fees, minimum contributions or minimum balance requirements to open or maintain one.

While the "529 Day" designation is a light-hearted reference to the date of May 29, its purpose is serious: to spread the word about the crucial role that a 529 college savings account can play in setting up children for future success. Every dollar saved today can help families reduce or eliminate student loan debt down the road.

"You can even ask other family members and friends to help plan for a young person's future," Frerichs said. "For example, maybe grandma and grandpa could contribute to a child's 529 account as a birthday gift, instead of buying a toy. Families also might consider asking 20 relatives and friends to mark a birthday or other special occasion by chipping in \$26.45 apiece – which would total \$529 – to a child's 529 account."

Since becoming treasurer in 2015, Frerichs has significantly grown the Bright Start 529 Program and has worked to reduce plan fees, ensuring that more of families' investment dollars go directly to college savings. He also collaborated with state lawmakers to create the Illinois First Steps Program, which provides a free, one-time \$50 seed deposit for Illinois parents or legal guardians when they open a Bright Start 529 or Bright Directions 529 account for a child born or adopted on or after Jan. 1, 2023.

Last September, Frerichs announced several improvements to Bright Start 529, including lower fees, updated investment options and technology enhancements. During the past 10 years, Frerichs has negotiated fee reductions of more than \$100 million, ensuring more investment dollars go directly to college savings. Today, Bright Start is among the most affordable and highest-rated college savings plans in the country. These changes have helped the plans grow to more than 925,000 accounts with \$21 billion in assets.

Managing Bright Start 529 accounts has become easier than ever for account owners, thanks to the Bright Start 529 mobile app that Frerichs unveiled last fall. The enhanced technology improves the user experience by allowing account owners to check account balances and open additional accounts for new beneficiaries on their phones. Through the app, account owners can easily contact grandparents or other relatives to encourage contributions to a child's Bright Start account as a way to celebrate special occasions.

Frerichs' ongoing efforts to improve Illinois 529 plans have earned praise and awards. During the first few months of 2025 alone, Morningstar, Business Insider and CNBC have each named Bright Start as one of the best 529 plans in the country.

In addition, Bright Start 529 earned a Gold Rating in October 2024 from Morningstar, a financial services firm that independently evaluates and rates college savings plans annually. The firm assigns each rated plan a Morningstar Analyst Rating of Gold, Silver, Bronze, Neutral or Negative, and in 2024, it awarded just five Gold Ratings to 529 plans across the country. Morningstar described Bright Start as a "Valedictorian," and as a standout plan offering "exceptional state stewardship of investor capital and well-constructed portfolios managed by competent investment teams." Since Frerichs revamped the Bright Start Plan in 2017, it has won Morningstar's Gold Rating six times.

For more information about Bright Start, including how to open an account, go to [BrightStart.com](https://BrightStart.com) or call (877) 432-7444. For more information about Bright Directions, go to [BrightDirections.com](https://BrightDirections.com) or call (866) 722-7283.

## **State Treasurer Mike Frerichs Returns Purple Heart to Family that had Four Sons Serve in WWII**

Ahead of Memorial Day, Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs announced the return of a Purple Heart medal to the grandson of a late World War II Army veteran from Lansing, Illinois.

Army Cpl. Henry Van Der Noord was one of four brothers who fought for the U.S. during World War II, with all of them making it home. He earned the Purple Heart for wounds he suffered during the fight to liberate the Philippines in May 1945.

"Mr. Van Der Noord and his brothers served their country proudly during a crucial time in our world's history," Frerichs said while returning the Purple Heart to Van Der Noord's grandson, Christopher Reed, also a veteran. "I am proud to return this honor to his loving family."



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Reed, the first male grandchild, got the medal when he was 8 or 9. He also received his grandfather's Army green dress jacket and some other medals. The Purple Heart stood out, however.

"When I first got it, I didn't know what the Purple Heart medal signified. I just thought it was really cool, coming in its own case," Reed said. "Fast forward 10 years and I'm in the Air Force. Then it was like, 'Wow, that's a big deal.' They just don't hand these things out. A lot of people's next of kin got them. It meant more as I got older. It was quite an honor."

Frerichs returned the medal as part of Operation Purple Heart, an unprecedented mission to return the military honor to its rightful owners. The iconic medal is given to individuals wounded or killed during military combat.

Henry Van Der Noord, one of eight children, was nicknamed "Babe" because he was an infant when his family came to the U.S. on a boat from The Netherlands.

Mr. Van Der Noord was in combat during the mission to liberate the Philippines. General Douglas MacArthur had lost his first attempt to take the Philippines, which was controlled by Japan. MacArthur tried again in 1945 and it was a months-long, bloody campaign.

Mr. Van Der Noord was with the 38th Field Artillery Division on Luzon, the largest island in the Philippines. On May 3, 1945, he suffered a wound when he was hit in the back with shrapnel.

"I can remember he had a hellacious scar," Reed said.

During his time recuperating, Mr. Van Der Noord discovered that one of his brothers, Private First Class Edward Van Der Noord, was in the same hospital. Edward, who was in the Army's 11th Airborne Division, injured his ankle in a parachute jump.

"The happy brothers spent four days together the first week in June," according to a newspaper clipping from the time.

Two other brothers also served their country. Seaman First Class John Van Der Noord was on a naval ship that was sunk in action off Okinawa. Technical Sgt. Gerriet "Harry" Van Der Noord worked on an Army railroad unit.

All four brothers made it back home. Henry Van Der Noord became a police officer and started a construction company with Eddie, the brother he met in the hospital. They built duplexes as well as a large apartment complex in Lansing during the 1970s that bore the family name, Van Der Noord Apartments.

"He was always kind of like a carpenter," Reed said of his grandfather. "If Henry wasn't building a picnic table, he was building a house."

Today, Reed lives in suburban Atlanta, Georgia. He grew up in Lansing and Batavia, where his father was police chief.

# State Treasurer Frerichs Announces New Option for Illinois Students Struggling to Obtain Traditional College Loans

Illinois students struggling to obtain traditional college loans have a new option to borrow money for in-state higher education costs thanks to a new program Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs unveiled today.

The new Funding U Illinois No-Cosigner Loan is part of the Student Empowerment Fund, Treasurer Frerichs' plan to provide private college loans for Illinois residents at lower rates than private competitors and help bridge the gap with federal financial aid. The No-Cosigner Loan joins ISL Education Lending's Illinois Partnership Loan and Illinois College Family Loan options.

"The costs of college continue to rise and the chaos in Washington is hurting, not helping our families," Frerichs said at a Thursday news conference at 555 W. Monroe. "Financial aid often doesn't cover all of the costs, and we are offering a solution to help students bridge the gap."

Funding U is working with the State Treasurer's Office to offer the Illinois No-Cosigner Loan. The program's aim is to focus on the dedication and achievements of students rather than their lack of a credit score or cosigner's financial status.

"Funding U's mission is to empower first-generation and low-income students across the U.S. to complete higher education by providing access to responsible, affordable financing," Funding U Founder and CEO Jeannie Tarkenton said. "Thanks to the leadership of Treasurer Frerichs, Illinois students who are often the most vulnerable to drop out can now graduate with less expensive debt."

The Illinois No Co-Signer Loan is open to Illinois residents attending an Illinois public or private not-for-profit university or college and is an attractive option for students who have maxed their grants, scholarships and financial aid, and have no access to a co-signer. The fixed annual percentage rate ranges from 7.99% to 9.49%. A no-cosigner student loan option at a competitive rate has not been available to Illinois students until now.

The Treasurer's Office is partnering with ISL Education Lending to offer the Partnership and College Family loans. Families can save thousands of dollars in interest when they choose the Illinois Partnership Loan in comparison to other private loan lenders and the Illinois College Family Loan for parents has lower APRs than the Federal Direct PLUS Loan. Borrowers or their co-signers must have a credit score of at least 660 and the fixed annual percentage rates range from 3.45% to 6.77%.

"We are proud to partner with Treasurer Frerichs to deliver lower-cost supplemental student loans to Illinois families. At a time when the high cost of college is causing some families to reconsider its value, the treasurer's program makes college more affordable," said Steve McCullough, the CEO of ISL Education Lending.

Illinois families say they're pleased with the results.

Soham Tillu saved money for college, but the Palatine father was looking to borrow some as well for his daughter Sachi, a third-year biology student at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana.

"The ISL loan was at a lower rate. It was very affordable. It also was very easy to apply," said Tillu, an Illinois Partnership Loan participant who has recommended the program to several friends. "The private loans we looked at were much more expensive."

How the Student Empowerment Fund works: The State Treasurer's Office makes investments with student loan providers that lend to Illinois residents. Lenders then make private loans at affordable rates and students or their families repay the loans. The lenders make interest payments to the State Treasurer's Office, which are reinvested to provide more loans for Illinois residents.

The Student Empowerment Fund has made nearly 700 loans totaling \$10.8 million since launching in 2023. The average amount borrowed is about \$21,000. Illinois State University, Augustana College, the University of Illinois, Lewis University and Southern Illinois University are the top five schools by volume.





# ***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***

## **Fitness Hike – Tuesday, July 1 • 10 a.m.**

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

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

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

## **Senior Fitness Walk – Wednesday, July 2 • 9 a.m.**

### **Thatcher Woods (Chicago Avenue, West of Thatcher Avenue, River Forest)**

Join other seniors for a gentle, moderately paced 1-mile walk.

Contact – (708) 366-6530 (registration required, call for information).

## **Naturalist Night Out: Owls – Wednesday, July 2 • 7 p.m.**

### **Spears Woods (96th Avenue, South of 87th Street, Near Willow Springs)**

Join us for a themed stroll under the World's Largest Urban Night Sky Place.

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

## **Stories in the Forest Drop-in – Thursday, July 3 • 10 a.m.**

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

Join the River Forest Public Library and the Trailside Museum for our free “Stories in the Forest” programs! We will read children’s stories and then engage in a simple nature activity. This program is designed for children from birth to age 5, accompanied by an adult. Please meet at the gazebo in the outdoor nature play area of the Trailside Museum. Note that the program will be canceled in the event of rain.

Contact – (708) 366-6530

## **Benefits of Beavers – Saturday, July 5 • 10:30 a.m.**

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

Hike to the beaver dam on our slough while we discuss the adaptations of the largest rodent in Illinois.

Contact – (708) 839-6897 (registration required, call for information).

## **Teen Exploration Day: Birds and Bracelets – Saturday, July 5 • 1 p.m.**

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

Enjoy making bracelets outside while learning about your favorite local birds. Ages 13-19.

Cost – Free. Contact – (630) 257-2045.

## **Red, White, & Blue Nature Walk – Sunday, July 6 • 10:30 a.m.**

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

A guided walk to look for our nation’s flag colors in nature.

Contact – (708) 366-6530 (registration required, call for information).

## **Red, White and...Black? – Sunday, July 6 • 3 p.m.**

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

Join us for a walk to search for local woodpeckers and learn about their amazing traits.

Contact – (708) 868-0606/sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyil.gov (registration required, call for information).

## **Story Trail – Tuesday, July 8 • 10 a.m.**

### **Bemis Woods-South (Ogden Avenue, West of Wolf Road, Near Western Springs)**

Walk a short, looped trail and listen to a tale. The story will be *I am Kind* by Erin Stevenson. Grove 7.

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

## **Qigong & Beautiful Sounds – Thursday, July 10 • 10 a.m.**

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

We guide you through a series of slow flowing movements, deep measured breaths and soothing sounds. Ages 55 and up.

Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 839-6897 (registration required, call for information).



**Stories in the Forest Drop-in – Thursday, July 10 • 10 a.m.**

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

Join the River Forest Public Library and the Trailside Museum for our free “Stories in the Forest” programs! We will read children’s stories and then engage in a simple nature activity. This program is designed for children from birth to age 5, accompanied by an adult. Please meet at the gazebo in the outdoor nature play area of the Trailside Museum. Note that the program will be canceled in the event of rain.  
Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 366-6530.

**Nature Thursdays ‘Frogs and Ponds’ Drop-In – Thursday, July 10 • 10 a.m.**

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

Drop in at Trailside Museum to connect to nature through fun inquiry-based activities for both adults and kids. There will be a different theme and activities each month. Led by the IL Ext. Master Naturalists. No registration required.

On July 10, we will explore Frogs and Ponds. We will learn about the life cycle and fun facts about the native frogs that live in the Forest Preserves and go on a frog and pond critter hunt by scooping our dip nets into Trailside’s pond. Expect to get wet! Nets and other materials provided.  
Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 366-6530.

**Bird Painting Step-By-Step: Scarlet Tanager – Friday, July 11 • 9:30 a.m.**

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

Sketch and paint a scarlet tanager on a 9 x 12 canvas. Materials provided and all skill levels welcome. Ages 13 and up.  
Cost – \$5 per person. Contact – (708) 366-6530 (registration required, call for information).

**Ceramic Creation Workshops – Saturday, July 12 • 9:30 a.m.**

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

Unleash your creativity! Learn basic techniques in shaping and decorating unique pieces to take home. All materials provided. Presented by Greg’s Ceramics 4 You.  
Contact – (708) 868-0606/sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyiil.gov (registration required, call for information).

**Kids’ Fest – Saturday, July 12 • 10 a.m.**

**Wampum Lake (Thornton-Lansing Road, West of IL-394, Near Thornton)**

Get ready to embrace the beauty of summer, the great outdoors and the wonders of nature at Kids’ Fest 2025! This exciting festival is the perfect way to celebrate the sun-soaked season with your family and friends.

**Highlights of Kids’ Fest 2025**

- A Day of Outdoor Delights: Bask in the warmth of the summer sun and revel in a day filled with outdoor activities that will keep kids of all ages entertained.
- Nature Exploration: Discover the wonders of the natural world through interactive exhibits, wildlife encounters and educational workshops.
- Creative Crafts: Unleash your artistic talents with hands-on crafting stations that allow kids to express their creativity and bring home their own masterpieces.
- Adventure Zone: Try your hand at archery and enjoy time on Wampum Lake in a canoe!
- Fun for All Ages: Kids’ Fest 2025 is designed for kids and adults alike, ensuring a memorable day out for everyone in the family.

Don’t miss this incredible summer celebration! Join us on July 12, at Wampum Lake for a day of sunshine, laughter and the magic of Kids’ Fest 2025. We can’t wait to make unforgettable summer memories with you.  
Cost – Free. Contact – (224) 763-4317/experience.nature@cookcountyiil.gov. Registration required at <https://kidsfest2025.eventbrite.com/>.

**Intro to Kayaking Class – Sunday, July 13 • 10 a.m.**

**Saganashkee Slough Boat Launch (107th Street, West of Willow Springs Road/104th Avenue, Near Willow Springs)**

Learn basic skills for beginner kayakers. Equipment provided. Ages 12 and up.  
Contact – (312) 533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyiil.gov (registration required, call for information).

**Underground Railroad River Boat Tour – Sunday, July 13 • 1 p.m.**

**Beaubien Woods Boat Launch (132nd Street, East of Greenwood Avenue, Chicago)**

Paddle along the African American Heritage Water Trail on 10-person voyager canoes and hear from The Midwest Underground Railroad Network.  
Cost – Free. Contact – (224) 763-4317/experience.nature@cookcountyiil.gov. Registration required at <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1AkGzMJ1RP/>.

**Bug-a-Palooza – Sunday, July 13 • 1:30 p.m.**

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

Learn about the amazing diversity of insects as we catch and release them.  
Contact – 847-824-8360

**Take some time  
to explore  
our website at  
[www.fpdcc.com](http://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.brookfieldzoo.org](http://www.brookfieldzoo.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!

## The Rare Animal Netflix Made Famous – Only in Chicago Brookfield Zoo Chicago is the Only Place in the U.S. to See a Pangolin Up Close – and its Leading Global Efforts to Save Them

A new Netflix documentary is bringing long-overdue attention to the pangolin – one of the world's most endangered and heavily trafficked mammals. While many viewers may be learning about this unique, armor-scaled animal for the first time, Brookfield Zoo Chicago has quietly been at the forefront of global efforts to protect and understand pangolins for nearly a decade.

Brookfield Zoo Chicago is the only place in the country where the public can see a pangolin up close. Guests can learn about the only mammals known to be covered in scales at the zoo's Habitat Africa – the forest, where this species listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) calls home. Behind the scenes, the zoo's expert animal care and veterinary teams care for 13 of these elusive mammals – including babies or “pangopups” – unlocking essential insights into their care, diet, behavior and reproduction. In fact, Brookfield is one of the only institutions worldwide to successfully breed second-generation pangolins in human care.

These discoveries are helping shape pangolin conservation across the globe. Dr. Jennifer Watts, the zoo's director of Nutrition, developed the “modern pangolin diet” based on the zoo's extensive experience caring for adult pangolins and their pups. Brookfield Zoo Chicago's work is pioneering new standards in husbandry and veterinary science for a species that has historically struggled to survive in human care.

“Caring for pangolins provide valuable yet unknown insight into their natural history, health and nutrition,” said Mark Wanner, Brookfield Zoo Chicago associate vice president of Animal Care and Conservation, and chair of the North American Pangolin Consortium. “As the most heavily trafficked and poached mammals in the world, pangolins face an urgent risk of extinction. This knowledge and the skills to care for pangolins are essential to help them survive and thrive, where in situ at rehabilitation centers in their native range or at accredited institutions like Brookfield Zoo Chicago, in hopes of staving off or ideally avoiding extinction.”

While Brookfield Zoo Chicago is not affiliated with the documentary, its leadership in pangolin care is gaining international attention. As a founding member of the North American Pangolin Consortium, the zoo works closely with global partners to protect pangolins in the wild and educate the public about their species.

More information about the species is available at [brookfieldzoo.org/pangolin](http://brookfieldzoo.org/pangolin), while the zoo's conservation efforts are highlighted at [brookfieldzoo.org/savethepangolin](http://brookfieldzoo.org/savethepangolin).



*The pangolin is one of the world's most endangered and heavily trafficked mammals.*

*Photo credit – © Brookfield Zoo Chicago.*

## Summer Adventures Await: Brookfield Zoo Chicago's Seasonal Experiences Offer Fun for All Ages

Brookfield Zoo Chicago is roaring with excitement in anticipation of its summer event lineup, announcing new experiences and its signature events through August 2025. Guests of all ages are invited to connect with wildlife and nature while creating new memories at Brookfield Zoo Chicago.

Now through Sept. 1, Brookfield Zoo Chicago will be open from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Some exceptions to these summer hours apply, including the zoo's after-hours events like Zoo Uncorked and Roaring Nights.

### **NEW! Brookfield Zoo Chicago Wildlife Walking Tours**

Guests have a new way to experience the zoo through the Brookfield Zoo Chicago Wildlife Walking Tours! This summer, guests will be able to purchase



an hour-long tour while visiting the zoo on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. Tours are accessible to guests of different abilities, weather permitting and available for guests ages 7 and older. Adventure guides will provide expert insights through headsets to guests during these seasonal tours, launching with two experiences:

- The African Safari Tour explores the wild wonders of the savanna. Guests can discover the striking stripes of zebras, the rocky outcrops of the kopje, the elusive African painted dogs and more while learning how conservation efforts are helping protect these incredible species for generations to come.
- The Feathers, Scales and Fins Tour uncovers secrets of some of the zoo's most fascinating residents – from the colorful chatter of macaws to the cool charm of the Humboldt penguin and the mysterious world of reptiles. Guests can expect to see vibrant wings, shimmering scales and playful splashes while learning how these unique creatures thrive, adapt and inspire conservation leadership.

### **NEW! Animal Chats at The Nature Stage**

Brookfield Zoo Chicago has brought back one of its most beloved experiences – Animal Chats at The Nature Stage! Guests are invited to two daily fun and educational 15-minute presentations featuring animals and the amazing animal care professionals who know them best. Guests can learn fascinating facts, see wildlife up close and participate in an interactive Q&A session – perfect for curious guests of all ages! Animal Chats will take place at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. daily, and are free with both general admission and membership, offering an expanded experience to reconnect with nature in a whole new way.

### **Wild Connections**

There's no better sign of summer than the flutter of butterfly wings. Brookfield Zoo Chicago's seasonal Butterflies! habitat and experience has returned, inviting guests to create a special connection with some of nature's most colorful creatures while learning about butterfly migration and conservation efforts. The Zoo's Wild Connections include the Giraffe Feeding Adventure, plus the Flamingo Feeding Adventure, Penguin Encounters and more! While age restrictions apply for these experiences, the Hamill Family Play Zoo and Hamill Family Wild Encounters offer free, up-close encounters with a variety of animal ambassadors for guests of all ages on a daily basis.

### **NEW! "Dolphins of the Reef" Virtual Reality Experience**

A new virtual reality experience is here just in time for summer! "Dolphins of the Reef" explores the unique bond between a pod of bottlenose dolphins and their surrounding coral reefs, uncovering remarkable behavior and conservation challenges. The new experience is one of several virtual reality films guests can purchase during their zoo visit.

### **More Fun to Come!**

This summer schedule of events will be complemented by the grand opening of the James & Elizabeth Bramsen Tropical Forests and a full lineup of fall and winter fun – including the return of Boo! at the Zoo and Holiday Magic! More information – including tickets to the Brookfield Zoo Chicago Wildlife Walking Tours and the addition of a wheelchair-accessible gondola on the guest-favorite Ferris Wheel this summer – will be available at [brookfieldzoo.org/visit](http://brookfieldzoo.org/visit).

To save the date for guest-favorite events, a preview of additional events ahead is available at [brookfieldzoo.org/events](http://brookfieldzoo.org/events) – with more to come! The best way to stay in the know of what's new at the zoo and receive exclusive invites is through a Brookfield Zoo Chicago membership. More information is available at [brookfieldzoo.org/membership](http://brookfieldzoo.org/membership).

# **Join Us for These Exciting Featured Events!**

## **Roaring Nights: Brookfield Zoo Chicago's Summer Concert Series**

### **East Mall/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](http://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 our brand new, breathtaking Bramsen 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.

Get your tickets today! Visit [www.brookfieldzoo.org/winesandvines](http://www.brookfieldzoo.org/winesandvines) for information.



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



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## The ROSE AD RESERVATION FORM

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Next Issue – August 2025  
(Deadline for material July 25, 2025.)  
Schedule for 2025  
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](mailto:therose@melrosepark.org) w/pdf or jpeg file.

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The  ROSE

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# 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**  
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**Village of  
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# ComEd Energy Efficiency Program Exceeds 2024 Goals of Saving Customers 13 Million MWhs of Electricity

## Program is One of ComEd's Key Pillars to Helping Customers Save Energy and Money with Pending Rise in Electric Supply Costs

In 2024, the award-winning ComEd Energy Efficiency Program helped customers save over 13 million megawatt hours (MWhs) of electricity, surpassing state law requirements. Since 2012, installed energy-efficiency measures have continued to deliver savings. This resulted in nearly \$1.3 billion in electric bill savings for customers last year, according to ComEd.

The energy-saving results are based on an independent evaluation of the ComEd program conducted by Guidehouse, a global consulting and managed services provider.

With the average monthly residential customer bill in the ComEd service territory projected to increase by approximately \$10.60 in June, the result of the annual PJM Interconnection capacity auction held last year, the evaluation shows the ComEd program continues to effectively assist customers in managing their energy consumption and maintaining control over electricity costs.

"ComEd recognizes the challenge posed by rising supply costs," said Melissa Washington, senior vice president of Customer Operations and Strategic Initiatives for ComEd. "Although we can't control this increase, we offer energy-efficiency options to help customers manage their energy costs and connect them to grants and bill-support options. The fact that customers are taking advantage of these options highlights their importance."

The ComEd Energy Efficiency Program, funded in accordance with state law, offers services, incentives, and rebates to assist families and businesses in reducing costs and improving energy usage. In 2024, the program:

- Provided ComEd residential and business customers with over \$277 million in incentives through rebates and discounts on energy-efficiency measures and projects.
- Increased the comfort and efficiency of more than 53,000 multi-family units by installing insulation, air sealing, heat pumps and other measures at no cost to the residents.
- Saved business customers more than 754,000 MWhs of electricity, amounting to over \$79 million in bill savings with an estimated total savings of 9.6 million MWh over the expected life of those measures, totaling more than \$1 billion.
- Saved residential customers over 1 million MWhs of electricity, resulting in over \$170 million in bill savings, with an estimated total savings of 13.2 million MWh over the expected life of those measures, totaling nearly \$2.2 billion.
- Enabled over 161,000 income-eligible customers to save more than 730,000 MWhs, equating to nearly \$123 million in annual bill savings. Income-eligible customers are also expected to realize estimated total savings of 10 million MWhs over the life of these measures, totaling more than \$1.6 billion.

"By taking advantage of energy efficiency programs, customers can meaningfully reduce their energy bills," said Paige Knutsen, executive director of the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA). "Energy efficiency programs support thousands of strong, local jobs and help make our communities' homes and businesses more comfortable and resilient."

Since 2008, the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program, one of the largest and longest-running of its kind, has saved customers over \$11 billion on electric bills and more than 99 million megawatt-hours of electricity. This is equivalent to:

- Avoiding over 74 billion pounds of carbon emissions.
- Removing nearly 8 million cars from the road.
- Planting about 34 million acres of trees.

ComEd also provides various bill-assistance options, such as budget billing, payment arrangements and federal grants through LIHEAP. So far this year, ComEd has helped over 114,000 customers access nearly \$22 million in financial assistance and other support programs.

Customers can visit [ComEd.com/BillSupport](https://ComEd.com/BillSupport) to find both energy-efficiency and bill-assistance options for which they may qualify.



## ComEd Statement on Rising Energy Costs

Beginning this summer, the average monthly residential customer bill in the ComEd service territory is expected to rise by about \$10.60 due to the annual PJM Interconnection capacity auction held last year. These costs go into effect this month and will be reflected in the 'supply' portion of customer bills, which ComEd passes on directly to customers with no markup. ComEd does not profit from this increase, was not part of the auction, does not supply capacity and does not retain any proceeds of the capacity charge payments. ComEd is responsible for the 'delivery' portion of bills, which pays for the work ComEd does to maintain and upgrade the system to ensure safe and reliable electric service for all customers.

**Learn more at <https://poweringlives.comed.com/why-is-your-electric-bill-going-up/>.**



# **ComEd Receives Approval for Beneficial Electrification Plan 2, Continuing to Advance Transportation Electrification in Illinois**

## **Investment of \$168 Million Over Three Years Will Support EV Purchases and Charging Infrastructure Advancements**

ComEd has announced that the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) has approved its second Beneficial Electrification (BE) Plan, investing approximately \$168 million over a three-year period beginning in 2026. The continuation of ComEd's BE funding marks a significant step forward in ComEd's commitment to advancing electric vehicle (EV) adoption and reducing emissions in northern Illinois.

Building on its current \$231 million investment in beneficial electrification, deployed from 2023 through 2025, ComEd will invest an additional \$168 million between 2026-2028 through BE Plan 2 to help residential and nonresidential customers transition to and take advantage of electric vehicles.

Since February of 2024, ComEd has incentivized the purchase and installation of nearly 5,000 public and private EV charging ports (Level 2 and Fast Chargers) and the purchase or lease of nearly 1,000 new and pre-owned electric fleet vehicles. More than 70% of the rebates awarded have gone to low-income customers or business and public sector organizations located in, or primarily serving, low-income and equity investment eligible communities (EIECs). Over this same period, Illinois has seen EV registrations grow three to four times faster than the nation as a whole.

"The shift to EVs is a major milestone on the road to Illinois' clean energy future and it is part of a broader effort to electrify more of our region's energy system," said Gil C. Quiniones, ComEd president and CEO. "Through the expansion of our Beneficial Electrification programs, ComEd is helping to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, and enable all communities to enjoy the benefits and opportunities that flow from the global energy transformation."

The approval of ComEd's BE Plan 2 follows the successful implementation of ComEd's first BE Plan, which was approved in 2023 under the guidance of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA). Signed into law by Gov. J.B. Pritzker in 2021, CEJA aims to combat climate change by leveraging Illinois' clean electricity grid and promoting beneficial electrification across the state.

"Illinois is committed to decarbonizing the transportation sector and ComEd's BE Plan 2 plays a crucial role in enabling more electric vehicle adoption in the state," said Megha Lakhchaura, state EV officer of Illinois. "By expanding charging infrastructure and providing incentives from the state and key partners like ComEd, we are making EV adoption more accessible and practical for residents and businesses alike."

Key components of ComEd's second Beneficial Electrification Plan include:

- Residential EV Charger and Installation Program – \$11 million, over three years, to offer rebates of up to \$2,500 per household to support the purchase and installation of residential Level 2 electric vehicle chargers.
- Business and Public Sector EV Purchase Program – \$82 million, over three years, to offer rebates for the purchase or lease of new or pre-owned fleet EVs of all weight classes.
- Business and Public Sector Make-Ready Program – \$44 million, over three years, to offer rebates for covering costs associated with making sites ready for public or private Level 2 of DC Fast Charging equipment.
- Customer Education and Awareness Program – \$11 million, over three years, to fund multiple efforts to empower and support customers to make informed decisions about vehicle electrification and charging infrastructure deployment. This includes free access to ComEd support tools, including Fleet Electrification Assessments, EV Toolkits and training programs for municipalities interested in achieving "EV Ready" status, and free Fleet Electrification Assessments, among others.
- Research and Development Program – \$11 million, over three years, to evaluate and demonstrate the impact of new transportation and electrification technologies.
- Portfolio Program – \$9 million, over three years, to fund a variety of initiatives spanning across multiple programs, to support a successful deployment of BE Plan 2 as a whole.

Projects located in, or primarily serving, low income or EIECs, will be eligible for higher rebate amounts and will receive more than 50% of the BE Plan 2 budget. Exact rebate amounts may be adjusted in response to demand over the course of the BE Plan 2 timeline.

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

"Reducing vehicle emissions is one of the most effective ways to improve air quality and public health," said Brian Urbaszewski, director of Environmental Health Programs at Respiratory Health Association. "Given current uncertainty with other sources of funding that foster zero-emission transportation, ComEd's continued investment in its Beneficial Electrification Plan is now even more critical in helping cut harmful pollutants, leading to cleaner air and healthier communities across northern Illinois."

ComEd's BE Plan 2 was developed in close collaboration with multiple stakeholders, including environmental organizations, community groups and industry experts to ensure equitable access to electrification benefits. The continued efforts in 2026 will build upon the existing resources and tools ComEd has already launched to support customer education and EV adoption, including the ComEd EV Toolkit, EV Ambassador Program, EV Readiness Program, EV Load Capacity Map, Fleet Electrification Assessments, EV Service Provider Network, EV Dealership Network and more.

**For more information on ComEd's second BE Plan and available resources and programs offered by ComEd, please visit [ComEd.com/ev](https://www.comed.com/ev).**



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# Nicor Gas Opens Grant Applications for Community and Culture, Family and Social Services

Nicor Gas has opened two grant applications under the pillars of community and culture, and family and social services. Applications will be accepted through July 31 at [www.NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving](http://www.NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving), with funding decisions by the end of September. Selected nonprofits and community organizations will be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in grant funds this year.

"At Nicor Gas, our commitment to investing in community and culture, and social services through nonprofit organizations enriches our company and empowers our communities by fostering community vitality, cultural engagement and access to resources," said Jackie Nagel, manager of Community Engagement at Nicor Gas.

## Community and Culture

Our Community and Culture Pillar provides support to cultural and community organizations that create engagement in the arts and organizations that work to ensure that individuals from all backgrounds can thrive and reach their full potential. Organizations funded under this pillar include museums and theaters, and organizations that create access to opportunities for all. Nicor Gas supports many programs that promote community and culture, including, but not limited to:

- Arts education and cultural enrichment programs.
- Community-based exhibitions and performances.

## Family and Social Services

The Family and Social Services Pillar provides support to social services programs. We focus on communities where stabilization needs are the greatest. Organizations funded under this pillar include social services agencies, non-core health services, such as mental health, substance abuse, disability services and organizations that target civic development. Nicor Gas supports a broad range of programs that promote community and social services, including, but not limited to:

- Mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs.
- Domestic violence prevention and treatment programs.
- Disability services programs.
- Family support services programs.
- Rehabilitation programs.



Last year, the company provided grant support to:

### Community and Culture ...

- DuPage Foundation – Sponsorship for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast.
- Freeport Arts Center – Supports the smArt After School Program, which engages underserved youth in dynamic visual and performing arts activities to build problem-solving skills and boost self-confidence.

### Family and Social Services ...

- The Harbour – Supports a youth advisory board for formerly homeless youth, including leadership training, wraparound support services and advocacy opportunities.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness – Supports an education and support services program that addresses chronic mental illness using a comprehensive approach to education and treatment options.
- Illinois Valley Industries – Supports programs and services for adults with developmental disabilities in Grundy County, including independent living skills, and community access and engagement programs.

To submit an application for a community and culture grant or a family and social services grant, visit [www.nicorgas.com/company/about-us/charitable-giving/pillars-of-giving.html](http://www.nicorgas.com/company/about-us/charitable-giving/pillars-of-giving.html).

For questions about eligibility or application process, please contact the charitable giving team at [nicorgascontributions@aglresources.com](mailto:nicorgascontributions@aglresources.com).

To learn more about Nicor Gas' commitment to its communities, visit [www.NicorGas.com/Community](http://www.NicorGas.com/Community).

## Nicor Gas Shares Severe Warm 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 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, and homes and businesses 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 counterclockwise 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 tuneup.** 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/ways Tosave](http://nicorgas.com/ways Tosave).

## 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 is reminding customers and communities to "call before you dig" in observance of Safe Digging Month this past 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 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](http://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 (888) 642-6748 from a safe location.

For more information about natural gas safety, visit [nicorgas.com/811](http://nicorgas.com/811).





# NEWS FROM LOYOLA MEDICINE, A MEMBER OF TRINITY HEALTH

## Loyola Medicine Celebrates Nurses Week

Nurses Week begins on Tuesday, May 6, and concluded on Florence Nightingale's birthday, May 12, which also marked International Nurses Day. This week-long celebration is a time to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work, dedication and compassion of nurses.

"Nurses are the backbone of our hospital," said Timothy M. Carrigan, PhD, RN, FACHE, NEA-BC, regional chief nursing officer of the Illinois/Indiana region for Trinity Health. "Our nurses often go above and beyond the call of duty for their patients, not only offering exceptional clinical care, but a genuine level of concern and support for patients and their families."

At Loyola, nursing is more than an occupation; it's a calling that, for some, is instilled in them since childhood. Loyola University Medical Center's Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President Teresa Rasmussen, DNP, RN, SCRNP, CNML, NE-BC, has a long-standing legacy with Loyola. Rasmussen's mother was a floor nurse for nearly three decades.

"My mom would come home from work and tell stories about her day, and I wanted to be a Loyola nurse just like her," said Rasmussen. The two women worked on the same floor for years before her mom's retirement in 2016.

For 12-year-old Giuliana Nagle, her connection to Loyola began as a challenging one. Nagle was transferred to Loyola's burn center after what her mother describes as a freak accident. She sustained two second-degree burns on her legs after spilling a cup of instant noodles on her lap. Although the weeks of treatments at Loyola's Burn Unit were tough, Giuliana was inspired by the care she received.



*Teresa and Mom*



*Michelle*



*Andrea and Michelle*



*Giuliana*

"If it were me, I'm not sure how I would have handled it, but Giuliana is a tough cookie," said Giuliana's mother Angela. "She keeps telling her doctors and nurses that she wants to become a nurse in Loyola's Burn Center to help people. Her nurses were so gentle and compassionate, and she wants to be the same way."

Much like Nagle, Andrea Hinich's inspiration came from a difficult journey. Nearly 24 years ago, Hinich was transported by air ambulance to Loyola, where she delivered her daughter, Michelle, at only 28 weeks. Michelle spent two months in the NICU and Andrea spent three weeks in the ICU. She credits Loyola for saving both of their lives and inspiring her to begin nursing school. Coming from a family of public servants, Hinich decided to enlist in the U.S. Army to obtain her degree. Hinich was first hired at Loyola in 2015. Her daughter Michelle's life has come full circle as she is an NICU nurse helping others receive the care that saved her life.

"I've made many sacrifices to obtain my nursing license," said Hinich. "I hold its value in the highest regard. As a registered nurse, I am challenged to be adaptable to ever-changing environments on different units, working with a variety of patient populations. I live up to the challenge."

## Loyola Medicine Appoints New Division Chief of Gastroenterology

Loyola Medicine is pleased to announce the appointment of Dejan Micic, MD, as the new division chief of Gastroenterology. In this role, Dr. Micic will oversee the division's clinical, research and educational initiatives while continuing his clinical practice at Loyola.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Micic to this important leadership role within our organization," said Marilyn Glassberg Csete, MD, chair of the Loyola Medicine Department of Medicine and John W. Clarke Chair and Professor, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Loyola University.

Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. "His exceptional clinical expertise, research contributions and commitment to medical education make him the ideal candidate early in his career to advance our gastroenterology division."



Dr. Micic brings extensive experience in gastroenterology and hepatology to the position. Prior to joining Loyola Medicine, he served as an associate professor in the section of gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition at the University of Chicago. He earned his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Michigan. He completed fellowships at the University of Chicago in gastroenterology, where he served as chief fellow, and in clinical nutrition at Northwestern University, as well as a fellowship in clinical medical ethics at the Maclean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics at the University of Chicago.

As a recognized expert in inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and celiac disease, Dr. Micic has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and has been the principal investigator on several clinical trials.

In his new role, Dr. Micic will oversee all operations of the division of gastroenterology, focusing on expanding access to advanced diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic procedures, enhancing multidisciplinary care for complex digestive diseases, and promoting innovation in gastroenterological research.

Dr. Micic is board-certified in gastroenterology and internal medicine and is a member of several organizations, including the American Gastroenterological Association, the American College of Gastroenterology, the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, and the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

# Marilyn Glassberg Csete, MD, Recognized with Jenesis Trailblazer Award

Marilyn Glassberg Csete, MD, an internationally recognized expert in interstitial and rare lung diseases, has been awarded the 2025 United Therapeutics Jenesis Trailblazer Award for her groundbreaking research in lung fibrosis.

The award "recognizes one exceptional U.S. or Canada-based female researcher or clinician who has completed innovative research in the fields of pulmonary hypertension, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis or lung transplantation."

As chair of the Loyola Medicine Department of Medicine and John W. Clarke Chair and Professor, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, Dr. Glassberg Csete has dedicated her career to advancing the understanding and treatment of complex lung disorders. Her pioneering work has transformed the approach to diagnosing and managing interstitial lung diseases, particularly those with limited treatment options.



For more than 25 years, she has conducted National Institute of Health (NIH) industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated clinical trials in patients with interstitial lung disease (ILD) and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). Throughout her career, her research has focused on the pivotal role of inflammation in the onset and progression of chronic ILD and the effects of mesenchymal stem cells (exosomes), sex hormones and aging in the lung. She is well recognized for her development of key educational and interactive programs for women in pulmonary medicine nationally and internationally, having led these efforts through the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) and the American Thoracic Society (ATS).

Glassberg adds this award to her long list of accomplishments. For her leadership in pulmonary and critical care medicine, she was the recipient of the American College of CHEST Physicians' 2023 Murray Kornfeld Memorial Founders Award. She was awarded the National Library of Medicine Award in 2003.

"We are so proud of Dr. Glassberg and grateful she is being recognized for her excellence in her field," said Shawn P. Vincent, president and chief executive officer of Loyola Medicine. "Dr. Glassberg exemplifies Loyola's commitment to research and innovative treatments crucial for advancing medical knowledge and improving patient outcomes."



[www.loyolamedicine.org](http://www.loyolamedicine.org)



# What is the Daily Recommended Calcium Intake?

While most of us are familiar with the role of calcium in bone health, this essential nutrient has several other vital functions in the body. Many people don't consume enough calcium, so it's important to know how much calcium you need each day and how to ensure you reach the recommended daily amount.

### What is calcium?

Calcium is a mineral needed for good health. Your body can't produce calcium, so you must get it through your diet or supplements. Almost all of the calcium in the body is stored in your bones and teeth, helping to keep them strong. The rest is found in your blood, muscles and other tissues. Calcium has several important roles in the body. It is necessary for bone health and the proper functioning of muscles, nerves and blood vessels, as well as blood clotting and hormone secretion.

### How much calcium do I need a day?

The amount of calcium you need each day depends on your age and sex.

The recommended dietary allowances (RDAs) for calcium are as follows:

Age	Male	Female	Pregnant	Lactating
0-6 Months	200 mg	200 mg		
7-12 Months	260 mg	260 mg		
1-3 Years	700 mg	700 mg		
4-8 Years	1000 mg	1000 mg		
9-13 Years	1300 mg	1300 mg		
14-18 Years	1300 mg	1300 mg	1300 mg	1300mg
19-50 Years	1000 mg	1000 mg	1000 mg	1000mg
51-70 Years	1000 mg	1200 mg		
70+ Years	1200 mg	1200 mg		



### Am I at risk of a calcium deficiency?

Nearly 30% of men and 60% of women do not consume enough calcium, according to the 2020-2025 dietary guidelines for Americans. Certain groups of people are at a higher risk of having a calcium deficiency. These include:

- People who are lactose intolerant or follow a vegan diet.
- Adults over age 50 living in poverty.
- Children and teenagers.
- Non-Hispanic Blacks and non-Hispanic Asians.
- Post-menopausal women.

### What foods are good sources of calcium?

Since calcium plays a critical role in your health, it's important to know which foods are rich in calcium to ensure you get what you need from your daily diet.

You're probably aware that dairy is a good source of calcium. It's true that milk, cheese and yogurt contain calcium and tend to be the primary source for most people. However, there are plenty of other food sources of calcium as well. These include:

- Almonds.
- Calcium-fortified foods (such as some breakfast cereals).
- Calcium-fortified orange juice.
- Calcium-fortified nondairy milk (such as soy, almond and oat).
- Canned sardines and salmon with the bones.
- Leafy greens (such as collard greens, broccoli, bok choy and spinach).
- Winter squash.

### Calcium supplements

If you find it challenging to get the calcium you need from food, you may want to consider dietary supplements. There are several different types of calcium supplements, with calcium carbonate and calcium citrate being the most common.

Vitamin D helps the body absorb calcium and some calcium supplements may also contain vitamin D. The body can only absorb about 500 mg of calcium at a time, so it's better to spread out your calcium intake rather than trying to get your full daily amount all at once.

Before you choose to take calcium supplements, speak with your health care provider, who can help you decide if calcium supplements are right for you.

### Can too much calcium be harmful?

Yes, too much calcium can be harmful. The upper limit for daily calcium intake varies based on age, as listed here:

Age	Male	Female	Pregnant	Lactating
0-6 Months	1000 mg	1000 mg		
7-12 Months	1500 mg	1500 mg		
1-8 Years	2500 mg	2500 mg		
9-18 Years	3000 mg	3000 mg	3000 mg	3000 mg
19-50 Years	2500 mg	2500 mg	2500 mg	2500 mg
51+ Years	2000 mg	2000 mg		

Excess calcium can be associated with the following:

- Constipation.
- Imbalances in other minerals in the blood, such as phosphate.
- Increased urination.
- Irregular heartbeat and chest pain.
- Kidney stones.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Poor muscle tone.
- Risk of death from heart disease.
- Weakness and fatigue (extreme tiredness).

Too much calcium can also block the absorption of other important dietary minerals and some medications.

It's best to get your calcium from food sources when possible. Your health care provider can help guide you on the risks and benefits of taking a calcium supplement so that you can make the best decision for your individual needs.

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# What are the Benefits of Calcium, Magnesium and Zinc?

Calcium, magnesium and zinc are all important minerals your body needs for vital functions. Calcium and magnesium are needed in large quantities, while zinc is a trace mineral the body only requires in small amounts. These essential minerals provide a number of benefits for the body.

## What does calcium do for the body?

Most calcium is found in our bones and teeth, and it keeps them firm and strong. Calcium is also needed for other tasks, like regulating heartbeat, muscle movement, sending nerve signals and blood clotting.

## What type of calcium do I need?

There are many different kinds of supplements that contain calcium, including multivitamins. You may see calcium supplements that include vitamin D, since this helps your body to absorb calcium. Or you may see different formulations of calcium supplements, such as calcium citrate or calcium carbonate.

Calcium citrate can be taken with or without food and is better absorbed by people with low stomach acid. Calcium carbonate, meanwhile, should be taken with food for the best absorption. Calcium carbonate may give you better value as it contains more elemental calcium – the actual amount absorbed by the body – than calcium citrate.

## How should I take a calcium supplement?

Our bodies can absorb only about 500 mg to 600 mg of calcium at one time. If you're prescribed a higher dose, your health care provider may advise you to split this into smaller ones throughout the day.

Calcium can interact with prescription drugs and reduce the absorption of other mineral supplements, such as magnesium, zinc and iron. Although combination supplements, such as a calcium supplement with magnesium, can deliver several key minerals at once, you may want to consider taking a calcium supplement separately to allow your body to absorb it more effectively. Always take prescription medications and supplements as directed by your health care provider.

## What is magnesium good for?

Magnesium is responsible for hundreds of functions in our bodies, including:

- Building protein and bones.
- Maintaining a regular heartbeat and making DNA.
- Regulating blood pressure and blood sugar.
- Magnesium is also needed to move calcium through the body.

## Magnesium deficiency

Despite the many available dietary sources of magnesium, many people don't get the recommended amount of magnesium daily. A healthy diet and supplementation may be helpful in some cases.

People who take in too little magnesium over a long time may show a magnesium deficiency. Symptoms of this may include loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and fatigue. Some medications may also reduce the amount of magnesium people can absorb or store in the body. The risk of magnesium deficiency is higher in older adults and people with certain conditions, such as gastrointestinal (gut) diseases, type 2 diabetes and alcohol dependence.

## Magnesium for sleep

There is emerging evidence that magnesium could be beneficial for sleep, especially for people with restless leg syndrome and insomnia. Low magnesium levels are associated with poor sleep quality in some populations. However, more research is needed to conclude that magnesium helps with sleep.

## What is zinc good for?

Like calcium and magnesium, zinc is an essential mineral the body needs to function. However, it's a trace mineral and is needed in much smaller quantities. Zinc is necessary for hundreds of processes in the body, including:

- Building proteins and healing tissue.
- Cell growth.
- DNA creation.

Zinc is important for immune system health, and it also helps your body fight bacteria, viruses and other microbes. The body also needs zinc to smell and taste properly.

Zinc deficiency is rare in the United States and is most often seen in people with digestive disorders or chronic liver or kidney disease. Signs of deficiency can include loss of taste or smell, poor appetite, slow wound healing and decreased immunity.

## Zinc benefits for men

Without adequate zinc intake, men may experience erectile dysfunction (the inability to achieve or maintain an erection) or hypogonadism (a problem in which the body doesn't produce enough testosterone).

**Calcium, magnesium and zinc are all important minerals the body needs for good health. These minerals are available in foods. They're also available in individual calcium, zinc and magnesium supplements, as well as combination supplements and multivitamins. Speak with your health care provider before taking supplements.**



# Obituaries

## *Capra*

Frances Capra, Oct. 16, 1959-May 4, 2025. Loving mother of Gianna (Anthony) Uroni, Alisa (partner Sal), and Anthony (fiancee Paige); cherished grandmother of Liliana and Silvia Uroni; beloved daughter of the late Elvira (Lawrence) Johnson and Nick Cardamone; dear sister of Vincent (Gina), Cindy (Keith), Larry (Dina) and the late Santo; loving long-time partner of the late Allan Todd; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## *Chacon*

Ruben Chacon, Oct. 9, 1956-June 13, 2025. Loving father of Kelly, Ruben Jr., Yesenia, Dezirae, Ricardo and Benjamin; cherished son of Maria Cruz and the late Augustin Cruz; loving grandfather of Jasmyn, Isabella, Emily and Amelia; dear brother of Victor, Nilda, Doris, Tori and the late Michael, Frank, Tina and Mickey; fond cousin, uncle and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

## *Domingo*

Mary Domingo, April 24, 1924-May 16, 2025. Dearly beloved wife of the late Joseph Domingo; loving mother of Anthony (the late Sharron) Domingo, Charles Domingo, MaryJo (the late Leo) Domingo Probst, Dawnmarie Domingo and Joseph (Shelly) Domingo; cherished grandmother of Tina, Rene, Tony, Nick, Santino and Joey; great-grandmother of Cristina, Anthony, Jonathan, Jeanette, Michele, Joseph, Jordan, Rosie, Tessa, Stevie, Emerson, Anthony and Korinna; great-great-grandmother of Aquiles, Agnes, Elijah, Marcus, Dylan, Lorelei, Analeise and Anthony; dear sister of the late Leo, Rose, Helen, Irene and Robert; loving aunt, great-aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## *Gonzalez*

Ercilio Gonzalez, July 9, 1955-May 6, 2025. Dearly beloved husband of the late Alicia Gomez; loving father of Ercilio Jr. and Mario Gonzalez; beloved son of the late Bacilio and Rosalia; cherished grandfather of Chyenne, Mario Jr., Ercilio III, Moises, Damen, Raven, Xzavier and Brianna; great-grandfather of Dominic, Leilani, Messiah, Dean, Luciano and Elijah; dear brother of Maria Cruz; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## *Indoranto*

Frank Indoranto Jr., Jan. 17, 1964-June 18, 2025. Loving father of Michael and Rena Indoranto; cherished son of the late Frank Sr. and Irene Indoranto; loving grandfather of Richard, Joshua, Jayden, Mia and Callie; dear brother of Janet Koronkiewicz and the late Carol Ceropski; fond uncle of Christopher and Samantha; former husband of Marian Militello Indoranto; stepfather of Dawn; cherished cousin, uncle and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

## *Kelly*

Pearl Kelly, nee Lauermann, Jan. 16, 1939-June 9, 2025. Beloved wife of the late James Kelly; loving mother of Jojo (Michael) Schultz, Brian and Karen (Thomas) Roberts; cherished grandmother of Michelle, Mikey, Michael, Lauren and Jimmy; dear sister of the late Edwin, Joseph and Lee; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Acacia Park.

## *Lopez*

David Lopez, Jan. 12, 1933-May 16, 2025. Beloved husband of Josefina Lopez; loving father of David (Jacqueline) Lopez Jr., Nancy (Antonio)

Medina, Nora (Orlando Arce) Monreal, Hector (Neida Rivera) Lopez and the late Luis Lopez; beloved son of the late Felipe and Herlinda Lopez; fond grandfather of Jasmine (Kenneth) Rector, Trey (Jen) Lopez, Bianca (fiance Ariel Contreras) Medina, Tyler Lopez, Antonio D. (fiancee Jennifer Muszczynski) Medina, Gabriela Monreal, Veronica Monreal, Alexandria Monreal; fond great-grandfather of Kiana Rector, Kenrick Rector, Liam Lopez, Grayson Lopez and Tilly Lopez; dear brother of 12; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## *Mazza*

Joseph C. Mazza, April 16, 1940-June 8, 2025, passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 8, 2025, while surrounded by his loving wife and family at the age of 85. Beloved husband of Irene (nee Adams) for a loving 64 years; devoted father of Anthony (Mary), Michael and Louis (Angela); loving son of the late Anthony and the late Annette (nee DeFrancisco) Mazza; fond grandfather of Joseph (Margie), Andrea (Bill) Otte, Frank, Vincenzo and Angelina; great-grandfather of Francesca, Isabella Otte, Santino Otte, Alessandra and Alexandra Otte; dear brother of Josephine (the late Bruno) Belmonte; dear uncle of Joseph Belmonte, Phyllis Belmonte, the late Bruno Belmonte and the late Anna Marie Belmonte. Arrangements by Russo's Hillside Chapels. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## *Mendicino*

Dante Mendicino, May 18, 1962-June 20, 2025. Loving father of Michael and Daniel (Jenny) Mendicino; beloved son of Santo and Emilia Mendicino; cherished grandfather of Rosalina and Sofia Mendicino; dear brother of Frank (Joanne) Mendicino; cherished cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## *Millonzi*

Theresa Millonzi, Sept. 17, 1929-May 18, 2025. Dearly beloved wife of the late Roy A. Millonzi; loving mother of Mary Lynn (Rocco G.) Millonzi Carrozza and Roy P. Millonzi; beloved daughter of the late Peter and Esther Abruzzo; cherished grandmother of John R. (Marianne) Carrozza, Rocco J. (Natalie) Carrozza, Carmella T. (Marc) Carrozza Hale, Marissa (Christian) Millonzi Jepsen and Mia T. Millonzi; great-grandmother of Annamaria, Giavanna, Francesca, Lilly and Christian; dear sister of the late Joe "Tuxedo Joe" Abruzzo; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## *Papendorf*

Lucille M. Papendorf, nee Dalsandro, Oct. 20, 1938-June 2, 2025, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family on Monday, June 2, 2025, at the golden age of 86. Beloved wife of the late Harvey Papendorf; devoted mother of Jennifer Papendorf, Gia (Karen Stowe) Papendorf and the late Paul Papendorf; loving daughter of the late Vincent and the late Jennie (nee Albachiara) Dalsandro; devoted grandmother of Harvey Martin and Redmond Martin; dear sister of Adele (the late Vince) Smarto and the late Vince "Vinnie" Dalsandro; loving cousin of the late Terry (the late John) Glazebrook, the late Carmen (Provi) Guerrieri and the late Madelyn (the late Steve) Rende; loving sister-in-law of Karen (the late Kenneth "Jock") Papendorf; dear aunt of many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Russo's Hillside Chapels. Interment Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery.

## *Pavone*

Luke J. Pavone, March 28, 1947-May 19, 2025. We are saddened to share that Luke J. Pavone, born in Chicago, Illinois, entered into eternal rest on May 19, 2025, at the age of 78, surrounded by his loving family. Luke was



preceded in death by his beloved wife, Lula Pavone, and was a devoted father and best friend to his daughter Nicole (Michael) Calandra. He was a loving brother to Joe, Gregory and Jeffrey, a proud and devoted grandfather, a favorite uncle to many, and a loyal friend, especially to the ROMEOS, his lifelong group of friends from the old neighborhood. Luke was the kind of friend everyone hopes to have – genuine, loyal and always ready with a joke. His sense of humor lit up every room and his warmth made people feel instantly welcome. He found joy in life’s simple pleasures – gardening, cooking, soaking up the sun and cruising with the top down in his convertible. Deeply loved by his friends and family, Luke’s Catholic faith was a quiet, but enduring presence in his life that brought him strength and peace. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

**Pecoraro**

Philippe Pecoraro, June 30, 1951-May 3, 2025. Beloved husband of Marianne; loving father of Francine (Shawn) and Marianne (Billy); fond grandfather of Alexis, Shawn, Francesca, Lillianna, Alyssa, Christian and Gabriella; fond grand-grandfather of Gianna; dear brother of Rosario (Myriam), Rose (Vito), Maria (Vince), Cecilia (Johnny) and the late Vinzenza (the late Filberto); loving uncle of many nieces and nephews, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

**Ryan**

Patrick A. Ryan, June 2, 1932-May 2, 2025. Dearly beloved husband of the late Constance Ryan; dear brother of the late Mildred (the late John); cherished uncle of Karen (Ray) Medina; great-uncle of Jessica and Cidney Medina; loving friend to many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Lithuanian National Cemetery.

**Spomer**

Stephen Spomer, May 25, 1955-May 25, 2025, age 70, was called to his eternal home on Sunday, May 25. A devoted son to the late Henry and Mildred Spomer; beloved husband to Nancy Letizia-Spomer; loving father

to Kendra (Scott) Brejcha; proud grandfather to Griffin, Reese and Mason Brejcha; brother to James (Diane) Ariola and the late Dennis (Nancy) Ariola; son-in-law to Lorraine and the late Charles Letizia; brother-in-law to Terri Ariola, Janice (Tony) Coglianese, Chuck (Diane) Letizia, Joyce (Bill) Passero, Susan (Don) Hankin, Jane (Tom) Dawid, Ellen (Gerard) Catrambone, Tom (Vicky )Letizia and Gina (Joe) Lenc; uncle to many nieces, nephews and true friend to many. May 25 holds three milestones for Steve. He was born May 25, 1955, married his heart and soul of 46 years on May 25, 1979, and was called home May 25, 2025 – on his 70th birthday. A devout Catholic, Steve was a man of deep faith who loved the Lord. He enjoyed singing his praises in the Strings of Faith. Steve was a true patriot who lived with pride, gratitude and a profound respect for those who have fought and continue to fight for the freedom of our country! Above all else, Steve was a proud grandfather, whose bond with his grandchildren was a source of immeasurable joy. He was their biggest fan, their greatest encourager, and a constant source of wisdom and love. Whether it was through shared stories, gentle guidance or simple time spent together, he made sure each of them knew how deeply they were cherished. Steve lived not for recognition, but for love for his family and his friends. Though he may no longer walk beside us, his legacy lives on in the lives he shaped, the lessons he taught and the love he gave so deeply. He will forever be loved and truly missed. Arrangements by Russo’s Hillside Chapels.

**Tirado**

Carmen Tirado, July 19, 1949-May 24, 2025. Loving mother of Luis (Maria) Davila, Juan (Arlene) Davila, Carlos Morales and Maritza Morales; cherished grandmother of Ashley, Cassi, Pahola, Yarelis, Kevin, Luigi, Valerie, Karla and Amarilis; great-grandmother of Jayden, Alyssa, Ava, Joshua, Mia, Sophia and Grecia; dear sister of Maria, Antonio, Lidu, Galita and the late Nilda; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

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# **2025 Village of Melrose Park RE: 0311860 Consumer Confidence Annual Water Quality Report Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2024**

This publication conforms to the new federal regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act that requires water utilities to provide a detailed water quality report to each of their customers annually. The Village of Melrose Park must provide you with this information. The Village also believes that knowledgeable customers are the Village's best allies in support of improving high drinking water standard.

If you have any questions relating to your water supply, and this report, please contact Mr. Mike Carpanzano, Water Superintendent (708-531-5360).

## **SPANISH NOTICE**

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The report outlines the processes involved in delivering to you the highest quality drinking water available.

1. Where does my water come from? 2. How is my water treated and purified? 3. How safe is my drinking water?

## **SOURCE WATER (MANDATORY)**

### **VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK DRINKING WATER SOURCE**

Lake Michigan is the surface water supply used to provide drinking water for Chicago and 123 suburban communities. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that the quality of Lake Michigan has improved dramatically over the past 21 years. Lake Michigan, by volume, is the second largest Great Lake and the only one located totally within the United States. It serves as a source of drinking water, as a place for swimming and fishing, and as a scenic wonderland. Sources of drinking water used for both tap water and bottled water can pick up contaminants as water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground. The drinking water source is vulnerable to industrial waste and runoff from surrounding lands. Potential sources of pollution such as pesticides, herbicides, radioactive materials, and organic and inorganic petroleum and gas production by-products can impact the source water. We do not have indications of the presence of these contaminants at this time, mainly because of restrictions, which prohibit industrial effluents from entering Lake Michigan, Sewage treatment plant effluents are not discharged into the lake, thereby reducing the threat of microbial contamination. All 63 miles of shoreline within Illinois are now considered to be in good condition. The Illinois EPA Office of Groundwater will be doing a source water assessment within the next three years. When completed, all sources of Pollutants into Lake Michigan will be identified and there will be information regarding the source water's susceptibility to contaminants based on the findings of the assessment. Since the quality of the raw water source is good, conventional treatment methods of disinfection, coagulation and sedimentation, and sand filtration are adequate for producing a water that is free of harmful contaminants.

## **HOW IS MY WATER TREATED AND PURIFIED?**

The City of Chicago Water Department provides the water treatment necessary to safeguard the water delivered to Melrose Park. Water is taken from Lake Michigan at several water inlets located about 3 miles from shore. Chlorine is then injected into the water for disinfection. The water then flows through a series of settling and filtration basins where small amounts of polymer and sedimentation chemicals are added. After this process is complete, the water is filtered to remove the sediment. At this point the water is filtered through layers of fine charcoal and silicate sand. Small particles are removed and pure clean water is ready to be re-chlorinated as a safeguard and precaution against any microorganisms.

## **VOLUNTARY TESTING (OPTIONAL)**

The Chicago Water Department monitors for contaminants which are proposed to be regulated or for which no standards currently exist but which could provide useful information in assessing the quality of the source water or the drinking water.

**Cryptosporidium** – Analyses have been conducted monthly on the source water since April 1993. Cryptosporidium has not been detected in these samples. Treatment processes have been optimized to ensure that if there are cryptosporidium cysts in the source water, they will be removed during the treatment process. By maintaining a low turbidity and thereby removing the particles from the water, the threat of cryptosporidium organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced.

**Asbestos** – Samples are examined for asbestos fibers in the source water and finished water on a routine basis. The EPA has determined that asbestos fibers greater than 10 microns in length could potentially cause lung cancer. We did not find fibers that are in this size category.

**Taste and odor compounds** – MIB and geosmin are monitored both in the source water and finished water. These analyses assist the personnel to determine the effectiveness of the treatment process as they strive to reduce these compounds and provide a drinking water without detectable tastes and odors.

The City of Chicago carefully monitors the chlorine, using just enough chlorine to protect its customers, without compromising taste. Lastly, fluoride is added to inhibit tooth decay. A corrosive inhibitor is added to protect the distribution system pipes.

The finished water is pumped into the City of Chicago supply system. The water there is pumped westerly by the city's Springfield Pumping Station through a 48"-36" supply line to the Village of Melrose Park's connection at Harlem and Wabansia.

Water is stored in the Village's 2 million gallon reservoir and again pumped by a booster station at 8300 North Avenue. The water travels through a 42" supply line to 2-4 million gallon reservoirs at the 15th Avenue pumping station and a 2 million gallon reservoir at the 23rd Avenue Main Pumping Station. At those points the water is pumped into the local water distribution lines. The Village of Melrose Park once again tests the water for chlorine levels, and adds the required chlorine to insure clean and safe water to its consumers.

## **SUBSTANCE EXPECTED IN DRINKING WATER**

Under The Safe Drinking Water Act. S.D.W.A., the U.S.A. Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for establishing national limits for hundreds of substances in drinking water. The Act also specifies various treatments that water systems must use to remove these substances.

The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## **LEAD EDUCATIONAL STATEMENT**

If present, lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Village of Melrose Park is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact Mike Carpanzano at (708) 531-5360. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **IF THERE WERE A PROBLEM WITH WATER CONTAMINANT, WHO WOULD NOTIFY ME?**

If contaminant levels were to exceed the M.C.L. for safe use, the Village of Melrose Park Department of Public Works will notify you with newspaper, TV and radio announcements. Also, the Village's Emergency Services/Public Safety would patrol the streets of Melrose Park instructing you of what appropriate action you can use to protect your family's health. These actions might include boiling the water for a particular period of time.

TABULAR INFORMATION

This report includes tables of contaminants found in drinking water. The tables do not list contaminants that were not found in the Chicago and Melrose Park water supply. Any contaminants detected in Melrose Park’s water were under maximum contaminants levels (M.C.L.) within the safe drinking water guidelines set by U.S. EPA and are not expected to cause any health risks. However, it is important for you to know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

The Village of Melrose Park hopes this information helps make its water customers better informed on the water we use in our homes and businesses.

2024 NON-DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

The following table includes contaminants monitored for, but not detected in the most recent sample. The CCR rule does not require that this information be reported; however, monitoring had indicated that these contaminants were not present in the water supply. In some cases, if a contaminant is not detected in a water supply, monitoring can be reduced to once every three or six years, however, the Village monitors every year.

DATA TABULATED BY CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT  
2024 WATER QUALITY DATA

-Definition of Terms;

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.  
**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.  
**Level Found:** This column represents an average of sample result data collected during the CCR calendar year. In some cases, it may represent a single sample if only one sample was collected.  
**Range of Detections:** This column represents a range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest that were collected during the CCR calendar year.  
**Date of Sample:** If a date appears in this column, the Illinois EPA requires monitoring for this contaminant less than once per year because the concentrations do not frequently change. If no date appears in the column, monitoring for this contaminant was conducted during the Consumer Confidence Report calendar year.  
**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which water systems must follow.  
**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.  
**Nd:** Not detectable at testing limits.   **n/a:** not applicable

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant (unit of measurement)	MCLG		MCL		Highest Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Date of Sample
Typical Source of Contaminant								
TURBIDITY DATA								
Turbidity (%<0.3 NTU)	N/a	TT(Limit 95% 0.3NTU)		Lowest Monthly %	99.7%-100%			
Soil runoff. Lowest monthly percent meeting limit.				99.7%				
Turbidity (NTU)	N/a	TT(Limit 1NTU)		0.39	N/a			
Soil runoff. Highest single measurement.								
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Barium (ppm)	2	2		0.0203	0.0198-0.0203			
Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.								
Nitrate (As Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10		0.39	0.36-0.39			
Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.								
Total Nitrate & Nitrite (ppm)	10	10		0.39	0.36-0.39			
Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.								
TOC (Total Organic Carbon)								
The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA.								
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS								
Sulfate (ppm)	n/a	n/a		28.2	25.3-28.2			
Erosion of naturally occurring deposits								
Sodium (ppm)	N/a	n/a		9.18	8.87-9.18			
Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener.								
STATE REGULATED CONTAMINANTS								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4		0.76	0.67-0.76			
Water additive which promotes strong teeth.								
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS								
Combined Radium (226/228) (pCi/l)	0	5		0.95	0.83-0.95	2/4/2020		
Decay of natural and man-made deposits								
GROSS APLHA excluding radon	0	15		3.1	2.8-3.1	2/4/2020		
and uranium Decay of natural and man-made deposits								

UNIT OF MEASUREMENT

ppm - Parts per million, or milligrams per liter      ppb - Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter      NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water  
%<0.5 NTU – Percent samples less than 0.5 NTU  
pCi/l – Picocuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE FOOTNOTES

**Turbidity**  
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

**Unregulated Contaminants:**  
A maximum contaminant level (MCL) for this contaminant has not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language. The purpose for monitoring this contaminant is to assist USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water, and whether future regulation is warranted.

**Fluoride**  
Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride range of 0.9 mg/l to 1.2 mg/l.

**Sodium**  
There is not a state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about this level of sodium in the water.



2024 VIOLATION SUMMARY TABLE FOR CHICAGO

Contaminant or Program	Violation Type	Monitoring Period Start Date-End Date	Violation Explanation
None	None	None	None
Health Effects (if Applicable)	None	None	None
Actions we took:	None		

WHAT'S IN MY WATER?

Each year, the Village analyzes hundreds of water samples for bacteria, turbidity, inorganic contaminants, lead and copper, nitrate, volatile organic contaminants, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic contaminants. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table below showing what substances were detected in our drinking water.

VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK

Lead & Copper – Lead and copper samples were collected from 30 area homes. None were found to exceed the Action Level. The 90th percentile values are shown.

Regulated Contaminants Detected in 2024 (Collected in 2023.)

Lead and Copper    Date Sampled: 2023						
Lead MCLG	Lead Action	Lead 90th Percentile	# Sites Over Lead AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
0 ppb	15 ppb	3	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems: Erosion of natural deposits
Copper MCLG	Copper Action	Copper 90th Percentile	# Sites Over Copper AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
1.3	1.3	0.03	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems: Erosion of natural deposits

Copper Range: 1.37-50.1 ppb    Lead Range: 0.0-5.39 ppb

To obtain a copy of the system’s lead tap sampling data and the service line material, please call Mike Carpanzano at (708) 531-5360.

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

**Definitions:** The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

**mg/l:** milligrams per litre or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**Ug/l:** micrograms per litre or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

**Na:** not applicable.

**Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDLG):** The level of disinfectant to drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDGL’s allow for a margin of safety.

Regulated Contaminants								
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminants
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2024	18	10.8-19.6	No goal for the total	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	2024	36	19.73-48	No goal for the total	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	2024	1.2	1.1-1.2	MRDLG=4	MDRL=4	ppm	No	Water additive used to control microbes

\*MCL Statement: The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TTHM and HAA5 is 80 ppm and 60 ppm respectively and is currently only applicable to surface water supplies that serve 10,000 or more people. These MCLs will become effective 01/01/2005 for all groundwater supplies and surface supplies serving less than 10,000 people. Until 01/01/2005, surface water supplies serving less than 10,000 people, any size water supply that purchase from a surface water source, and groundwater supplies serving more than 10,000 people must meet a state imposed TTHM MCL of 100 ppm. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years experience problems with their livers, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer.

2024 VIOLATION SUMMARY TABLE FOR MELOSE PARK

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
None	None	None	None

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but can also save you money by reducing your water and sewer bills. Here are a few suggestions.

**Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:**

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures, install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

**You can conserve outdoors as well:**

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car and save the hose for rinsing.

Special Notice for Availability of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Data

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER  
Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for Melrose Park

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don’t yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Michael Carpanzano at 708-531-5360 or mail your request to Village of Melrose Park c/o Michael Carpanzano 1000 North 25th Avenue, Melrose Park, IL. 60160

This notice is being sent to you by Melrose Park Water Department. State Water System ID#: 0311860.

Date distributed: June 20, 2025.

For questions or concerns regarding this report, please call the Melrose Park Village Hall at (708) 343-4000.

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Ronald M. Serpico

**CLERK**

Mary Ann Paolantonio

**TRUSTEES**

Anthony N. Abruzzo, Jaime Anguiano, Arturo J. Mota,  
Sonny Nicotera, Mary Ramirez Taconi, Anthony "Tony" Williams

**VILLAGE HALL HOURS**

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**BOARD MEETINGS**

Second and fourth Monday of each month (unless otherwise indicated)  
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Village of Melrose Park  
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