



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 in June and July. Please help us welcome Margaritas Restaurant; Arepa Express, LLC; and the Village of Hillside on their membership and partnership with the MPCCCD.

We also want to give special thanks to the seven businesses that renewed memberships in June and July 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 North Park Medical Group; Scudiero's Italian Bakery and Deli; The Kids Lounge; Lake Book Manufacturing, LLC.; Pollo Campero; Leyden Township; and International Bank of Chicago.

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 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/>.

Join Us at The Taste of MP for Bingo, Raffle and Fun!

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Bingo and for its fourth consecutive year at the Taste 2025! All Bingo games and the MPCCCD Raffle are 50/50 payouts with winners receiving 50% of the cash prizes and the other 50% will again be donated to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Food Pantry. MPCCCD Executive Director Isaac BazBaz said, "Hosting Bingo at the Taste is a great opportunity to connect with the community and make a difference by supporting the OLMC Food Pantry. Last year, we were able to join Mayor Serpico and present a \$7,000 check to the pantry just ahead of the holiday season with the money raised during Bingo!"

Join us in the Gym (entrance is by the Peroni Garden) for some Bingo Fun Friday night, and Saturday and Sunday, 1-8 p.m., for your chance to win a little \$\$\$ and help us make a difference in the community.

Summer Fun and Community Connections

August and September have become big community months for the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) First up again this year was the National Night Out, Aug. 5, and the chamber joined our first responders from Melrose Park's Police Department, Fire Department, Homeland Security – Public Safety, Department, West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, West Suburban Response Team, US Army and other local businesses to welcome the community and truly just have a good old neighborhood gathering.

On Aug. 16, the MPCCCD again joined Maywood School District 89 for its annual Back to School Picnic and resource fair for all kids in District 89 schools.

As the chamber has done the past four years, we raffled bikes ranging in sizes that fit all kids in grades K-eighth, with 10 lucky students taking a new bike home from the picnic. Only school-age students were eligible to win and registration was limited to one per student.

Aug. 29-31 is the 43rd Taste of Melrose Park and the MPCCCD will be hosting Bingo for the fourth year as mentioned previously. Mark your calendars and bring the family for a weekend of fun, food and entertainment, and come by the Gym for a few games of Bingo or to buy a 50/50 raffle ticket (or a few). Last year's payouts from Bingo and the 50/50 raffle were \$7,000 and the other \$7,000 was donated to the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Pantry.



Connecting Businesses to Resources

On July 22, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce hosted its monthly business breakfast and seminar. The July session was the chamber's Annual Access to Capital panel discussion. This year's panel included representatives from Pan American Bank, Proviso Community Bank, Huntington Bank and included a representative from Allies for Community Business (A4CB), which specializes in alternative financing and start-up loans for new and emerging businesses.

This meeting was attended by local business leaders and there was tremendous discussion on the special programs available to support small and mid-sized businesses with guidance to help them prepare for the application process and what to expect after an application is submitted.

We want to thank everyone for attending the event and panel discussion, as well as the networking and one-on-one conversations that happened after the event.



Upcoming Seminars and Networking Events

The MPCCCD primary functions are to connect businesses to resources and to connect businesses to business customers. These are accomplished through the regular monthly breakfast seminars, as well as the quarterly chamber After Hours Networking events. Our next calendared events are:

- Sept. 9 is planned for the next quarterly chamber After Hours Networking Event. Although the location for this event has not been finalized, this is a date you want to save on your calendar. The last event was hosted by 5 Stars Sports and was attended by over 80 local business and community leaders, and we look forward to the next event exceeding 80 attendees. If you are running low on business cards, this is the event you will want plenty for, so stock up now!
- Sept. 16 will be a seminar and training opportunity for the restaurant and hospitality businesses that will feature representatives from Triton College speaking on food safety and sanitation that will lead to industry-recognized certifications. If you are not currently receiving email information on chamber events, please register for emails and newsletters at <https://mpcccd.org> so that you receive registration information when it is released later this month.

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

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

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