

A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

*Best wishes to MP Police Chief Pitassi for a well-deserved retirement!
This Labor Day weekend, the Taste of Melrose Park marks its 43rd year ...
Come celebrate the diversity of food, culinary traditions, music and relationships built through sharing meals.*

Dear Neighbors,

I want to begin this letter by wishing Melrose Park Police Chief Sam Pitassi a well-deserved retirement. For 51 years, Chief Pitassi served on the front lines with a passion for keeping residents safe from harm. Sam grew up in Melrose Park, but started his career in law enforcement in Elk Grove Village as a patrol officer. He only served that village for nine months when there was an opening in the Melrose Park Police Department, Sam jumped at the chance to come back to his hometown to serve his neighbors and friends.



Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor

Chief Pitassi started as a Melrose Park patrol officer and steadily rose through the ranks. In 1983, he was promoted to serve as a detective and eventually became the supervisor of detectives. In 1999, he rose to the rank of deputy chief and in 2007, his hard work resulted in his being appointed chief of the Police Department.

A testament to his commitment to our village was the overflow crowd who attended the June 23 village board meeting to thank him for his service. The hometown kid who grew up in the Winston Park area was one of those individuals who made our community a better place by living here. As a side note, Chief Pitassi has led the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Procession for the past 18 years. Sam, I wish you nothing but the best in the next phase of your life as you and your wife travel and spend well-deserved time with the grandkids.

This Labor Day weekend, a vibrant tapestry of flavors, cultures and communal spirit will come together at the Taste of Melrose Park. Marking its 43rd year, this festival has become a crucial part of our local culture, bringing together residents and visitors alike to celebrate the diversity of food, culinary traditions, music and the relationships built through sharing meals.

As always, this year's festival promises an experience filled with delicious bites, live music, fireworks and the kind of camaraderie that makes community gatherings so special. What makes the Taste of Melrose Park special is the 63 mostly family food vendors, serving dishes passed down through generations ... all at an affordable price.

The laughter and excitement that echoes through the festival grounds create a lively atmosphere, reinforcing the message that food is not just about sustenance, but also about creating joyful experiences with loved ones. With each bite, festivalgoers are indulging in a slice of Melrose Park's culinary heritage.

As people tap their feet or sway along to the music, it becomes clear that the Taste is more than just a food event; it is a celebration of community, culture and unity. As attendees share laughter, stories and diverse culinary experiences, one thing is certain ... The Taste of Melrose Park proves that the heart of a community truly lies in its ability to come together, celebrate and enjoy the simple pleasure of food. See you at the Taste.

Bon Appetit,

Ron Serpico
Mayor Ron Serpico

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



Follow us on Facebook.



Follow us on Instagram.



Celebrate the Taste!

Labor Day Weekend • Fri, Sat. & Sun., Aug. 29-31, 2025

Ethnic Foods Priced at \$5 or Less! FREE Parking, Admission, Entertainment & Trolley Service
Village of Melrose Park Complex • 1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park, IL
Friday, 5:30-11 p.m. • Saturday, Noon-11 p.m. • Sunday, Noon-10:30 p.m.

See the Taste of Melrose Park 2025 Entertainment/Food Info and Sponsor Ads on Pages 29-80!



Village of Melrose Park

Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor

Mary Ann Paolantonio, Village Clerk

Trustees

Anthony N. Abruzzo • Jaime Anguiano

Arturo J. Mota • Sonny Nicotera

Mary Ramirez Taconi • Anthony "Tony" Williams



To Know

Village Hall.....(708) 343-4000

Hours – Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Birth Certificates • First Copy – \$15, additional copies \$4 each.

Death Certificates • First Copy – \$17, additional copies \$6 each.

Water, Tickets, Etc.

Office of the Mayor(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4410

Police Emergency911

Non-Emergency(708) 344-8409

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

Fire Emergency911

Non-Emergency(708) 344-1210

Public Safety/Homeland Security(708) 649-8000

Library(708) 343-3391

Public Works.....(708) 343-5128

Building and Code(708) 343-4000

Civic Center(708) 450-0555

Hall and Field Rentals, Sports, Etc.

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

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

Taste of Melrose Park

Dial A Ride(708) 343-7047

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

Economic Development(708) 865-8809



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

Important Upcoming Dates

Village Board MeetingsAug. 25, Sept. 22

Village Hall Holiday ClosingsSept. 1, Oct. 13

Resident Response

.....

Dear Melrose Park Director of Police Sam Pitassi ...

I'm writing to say thank you for your recent help. I came to your department on Saturday, July 12, 2025, asking for an officer escort to go with me over to O'Hare Towing Co.

My son worked for them for 12 years. He parked his truck the night of April 29, full of personal tools and a tool chest inside the building full of tools. We reached out to O'Hare two and a half months to return my son's belongings. One officer drove over with us. Another officer was already there. His name is Tejeda (#39) (Report #202500013982-13972).

We had to go back two more times to finally get the tool chest released from O'Hare. Your officer was there all three times – he's an outstanding officer. You should be proud to have him on your force. He was patient, kind, understanding, professional and sympathetic – I can't say enough good praise about him.

We do appreciate the hard work that police officers do.

- From the family of Eric Wiseheart,
Diane Wiseheart

Dear Melrose Park Deputy Police Chief Anthony Greco ...

On behalf of Veterans Park District, we would like to extend a sincere thanks and appreciation to your department for assisting with the incident at Gouin Pool on Saturday, June 14, 2025.

Your officers handled the situation with professionalism, ensuring the safety of all staff and residents without escalation or incident. Your presence and response were reassuring to our community and your dedication to public service did not go unnoticed.

To show our gratitude, Veterans Park District would like to make a donation on your behalf to your police organization or a charitable cause of your choosing. Please let us know your preferred recipient.

We are truly grateful for your partnership and continued support in keeping our community safe.

- Sincerely,
Bill Otte, Executive Director Thomas D. Olson, President
Ronald Boscacay, Vice President Diane Sampson, Secretary
Mary Copher, Treasurer Theresa Nardiello, Commissioner

Dear Melrose Park Deputy Police Chief Anthony Greco ...

I am writing to you to express our appreciation for all the assistance your department has provided us within the last few months. As you know, May and June were extremely busy months for our department, including a homicide and two gang-related shootings.

During our initial response to the homicide, officers encountered a chaotic scene with an entire apartment full of potential witnesses and offenders. Our patrol sergeant requested assistance from surrounding towns. Your officers responded immediately and assisted with securing the scene and transporting the subjects back to our department. Anytime we have ever asked for assistance from other agencies, we always have an immediate response from the Melrose Park Police Department.

I also want to recognize two individual members from your department:

- Ofc. Leonard Bartemio – Ofc. Bartemio's assistance was crucial to our identification of a suspect involved in both of our shootings. He was able to provide us with intelligence that led us to the suspect who was at Loyola Hospital with a gunshot wound. Charges in this case are pending for DNA and ballistic lab results.
- Det. Dennis Natale – Det. Natale has been a continuing resource for our Investigation Unit. He has been able to assist us with accessing cellphone data that would have otherwise taken months to retrieve through RCFL. We are extremely grateful for his assistance in both our homicide investigation, as well as our shootings.

Deputy chief, thank you again for your assistance. You have an excellent department who are always more than willing to go above and beyond to assist. If there is anything you need from us, please do not hesitate to reach out.

- Sincerely,
Brett Lettieri, Investigations Commander
City of Northlake Police Department

Dear Melrose Park Police Chief Anthony Greco ...

I want to express our gratitude for the assistance provided by your West Suburban SRT personnel, specifically Ofc. Rossi, Ofc. Schiller and Ofc. Menolascino at the Leyden Township Community Days summer festival on Saturday, June 28, 2025.

As you know, this was a joint event with Leyden Township and Veterans Park District. We had approximately 6,000 people attend this event on Saturday – between the carnival and the fireworks – with only a few police-related incidents. I can only attribute this to the increased police presence.

On behalf of Northlake Mayor Sherwin and Leyden Township Supervisor Rocco Biscaglio, thank you and your officers for your support.

- Sincerely,
Ken Beres, Chief of Police,
City of Northlake Police Department

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 – 5-11 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 5:30-10:30 p.m.**

**For more information or to volunteer,
please call Lorena at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.**





Always Stepping Up ...

Congrats MPPD Chief Pitassi ... Happy Retirement!

"Congratulations on an impeccable career," said Melrose Park Mayor Ron Serpico to retiring Police Chief Sam Pitassi at the June 23 Village Board meeting.

Mayor Serpico, at right, with new Police Chief Anthony Greco (left) thanked Sam Pitassi for a record 51 years of service with the Melrose Park Police Department.



Originally hired by the village of Elk Grove, Sam graduated from the police academy and worked for nine months before jumping at the chance to work in his hometown. A patrolman from 1974 to 1982, he never tested for a promotion; he had only hoped that one day there would be an opportunity to work as a detective. That day not only came in 1983, but Sam's passion for the position continued to pay off as he rose to the rank of sergeant, detective, lieutenant, detective and detective supervisor, never imagining he would be sworn in as deputy chief in 1999 and chief in 2007.



Retiring MP Police Chief Pitassi is pictured with his family at the June 23 MP board meeting.

His official title became director of Police in 2016 – few others in law enforcement have careers that span more than 50 incredible years. "I really do think it's unprecedented," said Mayor Serpico. "He has had an impeccable career, never suspended, never reprimanded and represented Melrose Park with great integrity."

Asked to look back and reflect on any accomplishments that stand out, Sam is quick to tell good stories about his police partners, mentors and heroes, but he could only sum up his career in just a few words, "I wanted to leave the department better than I found it and I think I did that." No doubt many agreed with him as the Village Boardroom steadily filled up with old friends, neighbors, retired police officers, current officers and village staff who came to wish him well. In the first row, however, was what makes him especially proud – his family. "My daughter is an amazing teacher, my son has been on the Police Department for 12 years already, and my wife and I look forward to spending time with our grandchildren," said Pitassi.

"I'm 73 now, it's time for new thinking in the Police Department and I'm an old-fashioned thinking guy. Chief Greco knows exactly what to do. As a commander for the WESTAF Homicide Task Force (West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force) and recipient of the FBI-LEEDA Award, residents can be sure that Melrose Park's officers will be well-prepared to meet the challenges of modern policing. He has the best working with him – new deputy chiefs, Rodriguez and Scudiero; watch commanders – Lt. Nocita and Rodriguez; and new Lt. Anzaldi will take the department to the next level," added Pitassi. "What a tremendous honor it has been to work in Melrose Park."

MP, Northlake Firefighters Learn About Sprinkler/Alarm Concerns

On July 21-23, for three consecutive days, Melrose Park and Northlake fire departments partnered to participate in a demonstration of commercial and residential sprinkler systems, and fire alarm systems by representatives of the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board.

The event took place at Melrose Park's Fire Station #3 parking/training area.



MP Firefighters Meet with Campers at VPD Career Day

Melrose Park Fire Department representatives attended Veterans Park District's Career Day this past July at the Bulger Park complex.

Campers toured the fire truck, viewed its components and learned its tasks and what it carries.

The MPFD team included Lt. Mario Palermo, firefighters Nick Fiore and Christian Nowicki, and assistant chiefs Frank Islami and James Wrosch.

The campers enjoyed the time they spent with our community's firefighters.





Melrose Park Fire Department NEWS



*Rick Beltrame
Director of Fire Dept.*

**A Message
from
Rick Beltrame,
Director of
Fire
Department**

Save the Date!



**Melrose Park
Firefighters' Association**

FALL RAFFLE DINNER



Friday, Nov. 14, 2025 • 6 p.m.-???

**Melrose Park Senior Center
900 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park**

**\$7000 Top Prize
(\$10,000 in Total Cash Prizes)**

**\$100 Per Ticket • Only 250 Tickets Will Be Sold
(Cost Includes raffle entry, dinner and more.)**

Proceeds will be used to make charitable contributions to various organizations.

MELROSE PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT 2025 AD BOOK

**To complement our Fall Raffle Dinner, the Melrose Park Firefighters' Association
will be producing a commemorative ad book showcasing the
many businesses that have supported us in the past.**

Cost of a full page ad is \$200 and half page ads can be purchased for \$125.

**To purchase tickets or for ad book information,
please call Dom DiFazio at (708) 890-0405.**

Deadline to purchase raffle tickets or to reserve an ad is Friday, Oct. 31, 2025.

MELROSE PARK

DOORBELL CAMERA PROGRAM

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

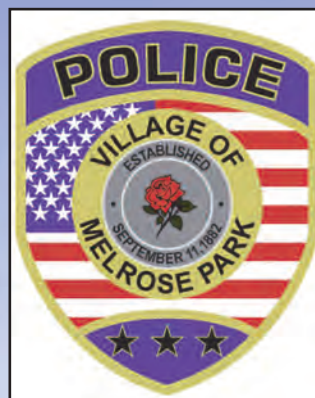
Residents who wish to participate in the new program can contact Deputy Chief of Police Anthony Greco at cameras@melroseparkpd.com.

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

The form will be found at www.melroseparkpd.com, and then choosing the Camera Program link on the side menu.

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

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

Melrose Park Police Department

A Message from Chief of Police Anthony Greco



Anthony Greco
Chief of Police



Important Parking Notice for Melrose Park Residents

A QUICK NOTE TO UPDATE WEEKEND PARKING RULES

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

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

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

STREET SWEEPING BEGAN TUESDAY, APRIL 1

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

Provide an Anonymous Crime Tip

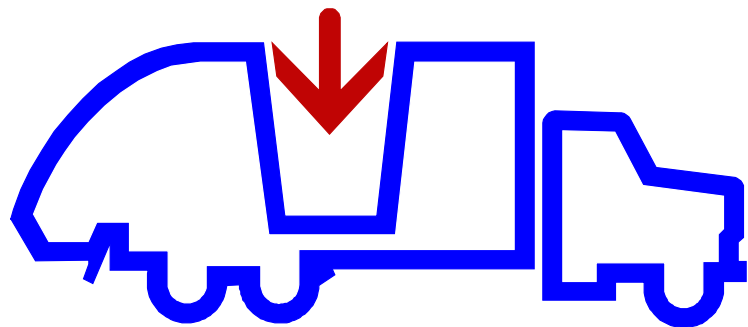
The Melrose Park Police Department relies on individuals to help prevent and solve crimes in our community.

If you have information about criminal activity, please submit it. However, if you would like to be contacted by a police officer, just include a telephone number or email address where you can be reached.
Submit to tips@melroseparkpd.com.

Visit the Melrose Park Police Department Website at www.melroseparkpd.com ...

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

The website can be translated to Spanish and Polish.



Village of Melrose Park Residential Garbage Pickup Information

Republic Services Garbage Schedule for Residential Bi-Weekly Pickup

24th Avenue to 11th Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

Winston Park Area – Tuesday and Friday

West Melrose – Tuesday and Friday

North of North Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

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

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

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

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

The Village of Melrose Park Public Works Department Garbage Pickup Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commercial and apartment buildings must use a private scavenger company.

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

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

ATTENTION RESIDENTS – CALL TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT RESIDENT GARBAGE CANS

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

REPLACEMENT RESIDENT RECYCLING CANS

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



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.

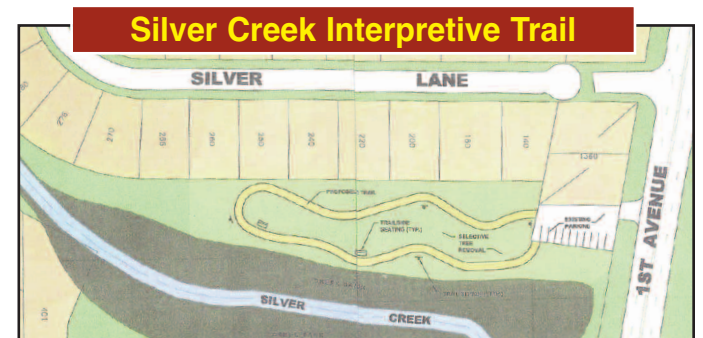
**Phase 5 and 6 of the
Silver Creek Stabilization Project have been completed.
Phase 7 is underway.**

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.*

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



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

Flags representing the United States of America, the state of Illinois, the village of Melrose Park, the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marines, United States Coast Guard, United States Space Force and POW/MIA are being displayed on lightpoles within the village.

If you know of a veteran or someone currently serving from the community and would like to have a flag displayed on a lightpole near their home, please call the Melrose Park Village Hall at (708) 343-4000 with details on their U.S. military branch.

Melrose Park is Looking for Residents Currently Serving in the Military

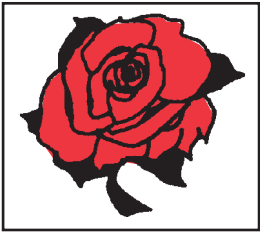


Attention Residents

The village of Melrose Park would like to know of any residents who are currently serving in the military. If you have a family member or know of a resident who is, please contact Jasmine Mendez via email – jmendez@melrosepark.org or by phone – (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4414.

Donations of any amount to support Melrose Park's Avenue of Flags initiative are appreciated and can be sent to: Village of Melrose Park/Avenue of Flags, 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, Ill. 60160. Please make checks payable to the Melrose Park Youth Commission or Melrose Park Sports & Family Benefit Fund.





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

Free Exercise for Melrose Park Seniors

*Socially
Distanced
Activity*

*Face
Masks
Required*

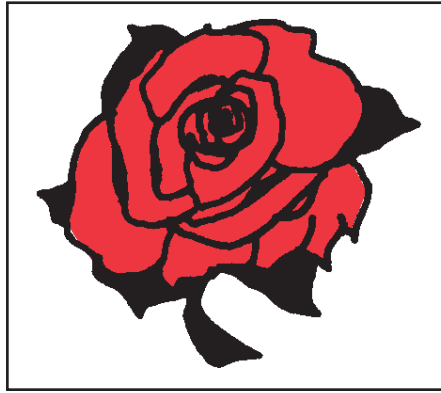


*Come Join in the Fun with
Instructor Barb Rubright
of Rube's Garage!*

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 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

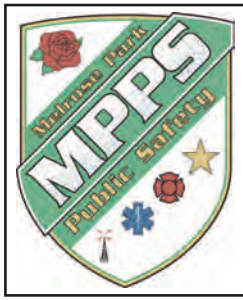
- 1) Only one reservation per rider per day. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 2) Only two appointments a week can be made for miscellaneous use, such as grocery shopping, etc. Anyone using the van for doctor appointments, etc., may use the service up to three times a week.
- 3) You must stay at the destination you are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



From the Desk of Chief Phil Schwartz Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security –Public Safety

Public Information Regarding Resident Safety Outdoor Warning System

Melrose Park has a siren warning system at multiple locations throughout the community. The system consists of several sirens strategically located throughout the village and is intended to provide outdoor warning of impending danger. You may only hear the sirens if you are outside. Please review the following information as it explains the function, operation and procedures associated with the Village of Melrose Park Outdoor Warning Siren System.

Warning System Activation

The system is designed to notify the community by alert warning and attack warning signals. the signals are standardized for outdoor warning devices by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Alert Warning

An alert warning signal is a three- to five-minute steady siren. This signal is used during a severe weather emergency or funnel cloud sighting. The reporting area includes a 10-mile perimeter around the village. The alert warning signal shall indicate to all persons to "immediately seek shelter, turn on your radio or television and listen for essential emergency information." Please note, severe weather watches are reports of weather conditions in which tornados could occur. The warning system is not activated for severe weather watches.

Attack Warning

An attack warning signal is a three- to five-minute wavering siren. This signal means that an actual attack against the United States has been detected and that the Federal Emergency Broadcast System has been activated. According to federal government guidelines, this signal will be used for no other purpose and will have no other meaning. The use of indoor warning systems is essential, as most residents and businesses will not hear the warning system unless they are outside. An indoor warning system includes commercial broadcast radio, television stations, cable television override systems, tone activated radio receivers and public address systems in public buildings.

Listen for the Siren Testing the First Tuesday of Every Month at 10 a.m.

It is important that the village system be tested on a regular schedule to ensure proper operation and to assist in educating the public to recognize the different warning signals. Testing occurs the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Federal and state guidelines indicate that monthly warning system tests should occur in the following manner:

- Alert warning signal (steady siren) will sound for one minute.
- One minute of silence.
- Attack warning signal (wavering siren) will sound for one minute.

This testing procedure will establish a test pattern different from that used in an actual emergency when the signals are sounded for three to five minutes.

Reactivation

Once it is activated, the warning sirens will not be reactivated for the same incident. The warning sirens will be reactivated for new, confirmed incidents.

All Clear

In keeping with established policies, the village of Melrose Park will not issue the all clear for any alert or attack signals. Please monitor commercial radio and television for further information.

Sheltering In Place

Should I Shelter at Home?

Taking appropriate shelter is critical in times of disaster. Sheltering is appropriate when conditions require that you seek protection in your home, place of employment or other location when disaster strikes. Sheltering outside the hazard area could include staying with friends and relatives, seeking commercial lodging or staying in a mass-care facility operated by disaster relief groups.

To effectively shelter, you must first consider the hazard and then choose a place in your home or other building that is safe for that hazard. For example, for a tornado, a room should be selected that is in a basement or an interior room on the lowest level away from corners, windows, doors and outside walls.

The safest locations to seek shelter vary by hazard. Be Informed about the sheltering suggestions for each hazard.

There may be situations, depending on your circumstances and the nature of the disaster, when it's simply best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside by sheltering in place.



The length of time you are required to shelter may be short, such as during a tornado warning, or long, such as during a winter storm or a pandemic. It is important that you stay in shelter until local authorities say it is safe to leave. Additionally, you should take turns listening to radio broadcasts and maintain a 24-hour safety watch.

During extended periods of sheltering, you will need to manage water and food supplies to ensure you and your family have the required supplies and quantities.

Guidelines for Staying Put (Sheltering In Place)

Whether you are at home, work or elsewhere, there may be situations when it's simply best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside.

There may be circumstances when staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as "sealing the room," is a matter of survival.

Use common sense and available information to assess the situation and determine if there is immediate danger. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to take this kind of action.

The process used to seal the room is considered a temporary protective measure to create a barrier between you and potentially contaminated air outside. It is a type of sheltering in place that requires preplanning.

Additional Sheltering in Place Guidelines

- Bring your family and pets inside.
- Lock doors, close windows, air vents and fireplace dampers.
- Turn off fans, air conditioning and forced air heating systems.
- Take your emergency supply kit, unless you have reason to believe it has been contaminated.
- Go into an interior room with few windows, if possible.
- Seal all windows, doors and air vents with 2-4 mil. thick plastic sheeting and duct tape. Consider measuring and cutting the sheeting in advance to save time.
- Cut the plastic sheeting several inches wider than the openings and label each sheet.
- Duct tape plastic at corners first and then tape down all edges.
- Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to seal gaps so that you create a barrier between yourself and any contamination.
- Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio or check the internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.



For more information, call (708) 649-8000 or visit www.mpdes.org.

Answer the Call...

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

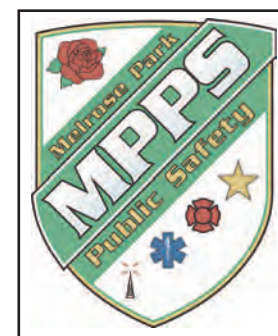
- Interested in public safety, emergency services and first responder volunteer opportunities? Become a member of the Village of Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security and Public Safety.
- Team members gain real-world emergency services experience in the areas of police, fire, criminal justice, 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 to join one of the most prestigious public safety departments in the region!

Visit our website at www.mpps.us for more information about our department.





**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.**



Melrose Park
Public Library

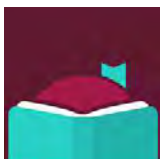
Sign up today E-Newsletter

GET OUR MONTHLY EMAIL
NEWSLETTER FOR ALL THE
LATEST AT THE LIBRARY!

www.mpplibrary.org

KEEP UPDATED!

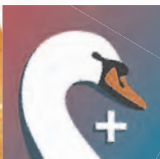
Stream, Download, & More!



MEDIA ON DEMAND | LIBBY APP:
BORROW EBOOKS,
AUDIOBOOKS, MAGAZINES, &
MORE--ALL FOR FREE!



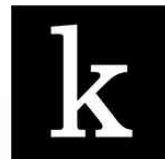
FREEGAL MUSIC: ACCESS
MILLIONS OF SONGS TO STREAM,
TO DOWNLOAD, & TO CREATE
YOUR OWN PLAYLISTS.



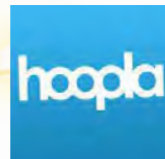
SWAN LIBRARIES + APP:
MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT,
ACCESS THE CATALOG, SAVE YOUR
CARD AND MORE.



COMICS PLUS: ENJOY UNLIMITED
ACCESS TO 1000S OF DIGITAL
COMICS, GRAPHIC NOVELS, & MANGA.



KANOPY: STREAM POPULAR FILMS,
AWARD-WINNING FILMS, FOREIGN
FILMS, KID'S FILMS, & DOCUMENTARIES
WITHOUT PAYING A DIME.



HOOPLA: READ, LISTEN, AND WATCH
EBOOKS, AUDIOBOOKS, MOVIES,
MUSIC, COMICS, & TV SHOWS
WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD.

Check our 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

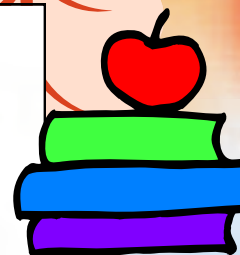
Memorial Day thru Labor Day - Closed on Saturdays

MPPLibrary.org

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



Melrose Park
Public Library



www.mpplibrary.org



Adult Fall Programs



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

Mondays @ 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

August 4 th 18 th	November 3 rd 17 th
September 8 th 22 nd	December 8 th 22 nd
October 6 th 20 th	

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



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 Today!
BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY

2025 DATES

September 19th
October 17th
November 14th
December 19th

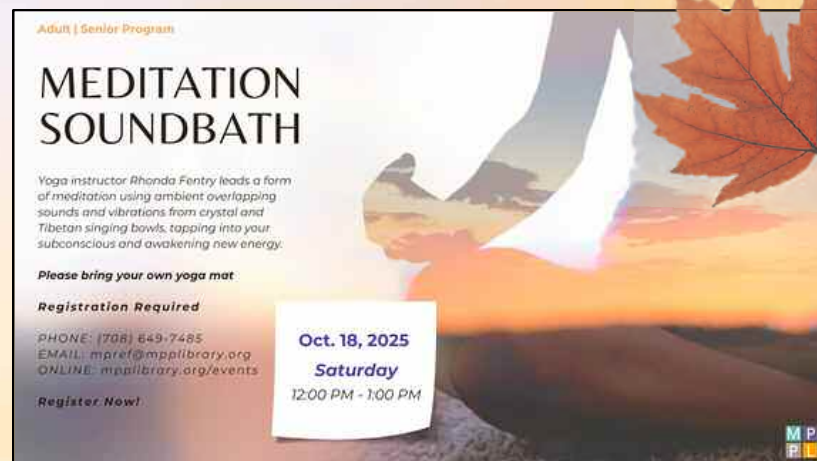


COZY COMFORT CUISINE

Popular Chef, Susan Maddox, will return for a cooking demonstration celebrating the fall season. Samples and recipes will be included!

Saturday, September 20th @ 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Registration is required!
Call: (708) 649-7485
Email: mpref@mpplibrary.org



MEDITATION SOUNDBATH

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

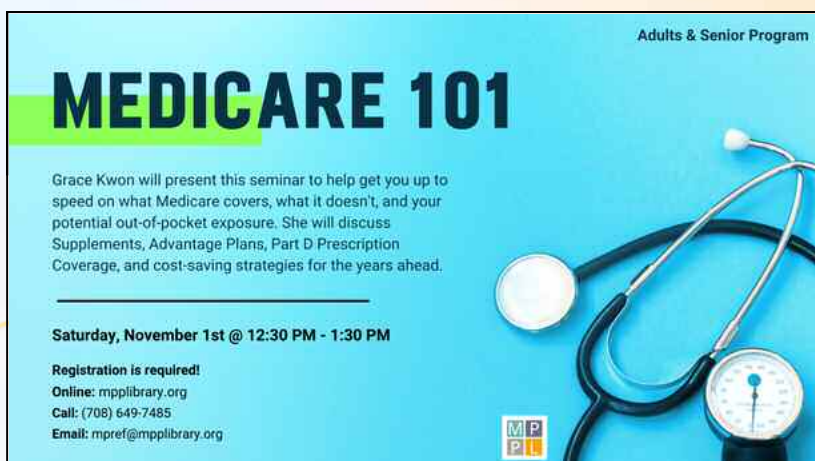
Please bring your own yoga mat

Registration Required

PHONE: (708) 649-7485
EMAIL: mpref@mpplibrary.org
ONLINE: mpplibrary.org/events

Oct. 18, 2025
Saturday
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Register Now!



MEDICARE 101

Grace Kwon will present this seminar to help get you up to speed on what Medicare covers, what it doesn't, and your potential out-of-pocket exposure. She will discuss Supplements, Advantage Plans, Part D Prescription Coverage, and cost-saving strategies for the years ahead.

Saturday, November 1st @ 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

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



PAINT THE TOWN

Join us as an instructor from Paint The Town guides you through painting your own masterpiece! No experience needed! All materials will be provided!

Saturday, November 15th
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

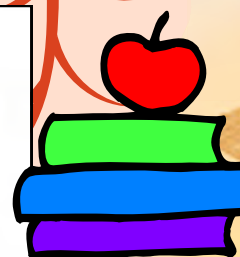
Registration Required

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

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



www.mpplibrary.org



Youth Services

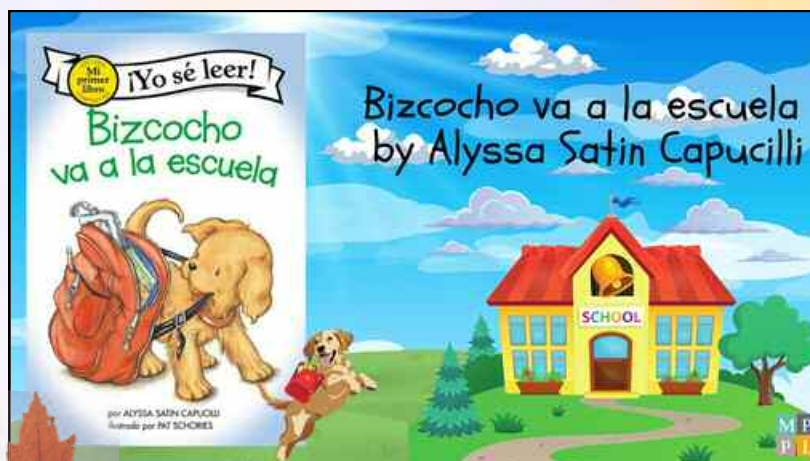
Online Storytimes & Make-It-Mondays



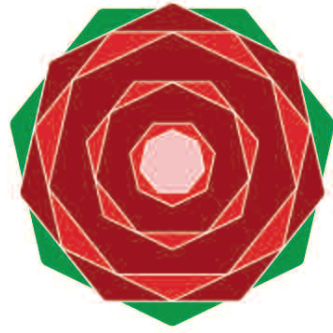
Make it Mondays: Make something special the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month! Stop in the library to grab your craft bag and instructions. Ages 3 and up.

Online Storytime: We are posting virtual story times online! You will find all our videos on our website. New videos will be posted on the first Wednesday of every month at 10am. We hope you can join us from the comfort of your home! Ages 1-5.

Bilingual Online Storytime: Our bilingual story times will be posted on the third Wednesday of every month at 10am for our littlest patrons. Stop by the library for the companion activity packet and craft and then be sure to find the video on our website! Ages 1-5.



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 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.

MP Community Comes Together to Celebrate National Night Out



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

On Tuesday, Aug. 5, Melrose Park hosted its annual National Night Out for Public Safety at the Melrose Park Civic Center. Residents of all ages showed up to celebrate an evening of neighborhood unity, public safety awareness and family-friendly fun.

Thank you to the Melrose Park Police, Fire and Homeland Security – Public

Safety departments, also to the West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, West Suburban Response Team, U.S. Army, Veterans Park District, Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development, and a number of local businesses and organizations for making this year's public festival another Melrose Park successful event.

The big night was filled with appreciation for our local heroes!



Your Adventure Starts Here



**RV RENTALS
REPAIRS
REMODELING
CONSIGNMENT**

Whether you're planning a cross-country road trip, need expert RV repairs or want to earn with your unused RV - Northern Lights Recreation has you covered.

- ✓ Premium Class A & Towable RV Rentals.
- ✓ Expert RV Repairs & Remodels.
- ✓ Consignment Rentals – We Rent Your RV for You.
- ✓ Aurora-Ready Vehicles & Trip Planning Tips.

SERVICE CENTER SPECIALISTS

We fix and upgrade all makes & models.

From custom remodels to seasonal prep – trust the pros.

- Based in McHenry, Illinois – Serving All Surrounding Areas.
- Book or Learn More: rent.northernlightsrecreation.com.
- (844) 4-RENT-RVS | info@northernlightsrecreation.com.



Will Smith

President
Will@Northernlightsrecreation.com
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northernlightsrecreation.com
 704 N Rose Farm Rd.
 Woodstock, IL 60098

**Trusted. Local. Passionate About the Road.
 Let the Northern Lights guide your next journey.**



Hermansen Gets First Book Published Schedules Book Signing for Sept. 13

Amanda Hermansen, a Melrose Park resident since 1999, wrote her first book in 2020 and finally met her goal of getting it published this past summer. The book titled *Unearthing Secrets* was published under the pen name Manda Lynn and is currently available for purchase online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble with an e-book version also available.

Hermansen graduated from Walther Christian Academy in 2014, Concordia University Chicago in 2017 (BSBA with a major in accounting and a minor in church/not-for-profit management) and Western Governors University in 2023 (Master of Arts in English education (secondary)). She is currently employed as an accounting associate at Lutheran Child and Family Services.

On Saturday, Sept. 13, 1-3 p.m., Amanda will be hosting a free book signing event (<https://www.facebook.com/share/174SYRYWXr/>) at Walther Christian Academy in Melrose Park. Interested parties are welcome to bring books that were already purchased and that they'd like to have signed. A limited quantity will be on sale at the event, as well.

Hermansen's author journey and updates can be followed on Facebook (Manda Lynn Books) or Instagram (mandalynn.books).



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.

FOR SALE – 2022 Ram 3500 • VIN 3C7WRNEL7NG389192

Owner – Daviti Gaimarjvashvili • Lienholder – Stellantis Financial Services • Current Amount Due – \$23,875

For more information, please call Paul at ATC Truck and Body, 1529 N. 31st Ave., Melrose Park ... (312) 848-4004.

Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

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

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



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 remaining dates for 2025 are 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.





BILL CARO
PRESIDENT

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Next Issue – October 2025
(Deadline for material Sept. 25, 2025.)
Remaining Schedule for 2025
October and December

Dear Community Member,

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

Included is display ad pricing for your review.

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

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

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

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



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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.

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A Step Closer to the Rank of Eagle Scout



Pictured are members of Melrose Park's Boy Scout Troop 4112 who spent a week camping at Camp Long Lake Scout Camp in St. Cloud, Wisconsin.

The group spent the week hiking, swimming and completing activities in order to earn merit badges that will help them reach the rank of Eagle Scout.

Anyone interested in joining the Boy Scouts can call Fred Crancich at (708) 609-5539 for additional information.

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Celebrating Our 43rd Year

August 29th, 30th & 31st

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**Thank You to
All Volunteers for
Your Dedicated Service
to the
Taste of Melrose Park!**

Welcome to the 2025 Taste of Melrose Park

Celebrating Our 43rd Year!



If you enjoy a smorgasbord of delicious homemade food, rocking out to great local bands, and are closely watching the family pocketbook, you have come to the right place ... the 43rd annual Taste of Melrose Park.

The Taste of Melrose Park has many more food vendors than the Taste of Chicago, and more importantly, all food items cost a mere \$5 or less. Besides our affordable food prices, all our entertainment is free, parking is free, the trolley service is free, and a great time shared with family and friends is not only free, it's guaranteed!

The Taste of Melrose Park is dedicated to providing a safe and fun atmosphere for kids of all ages, 1 to 100. Most of our food booths are operated by Melrose Park families who are committed to treating every "Taste" patron as part of their extended family.

This year's "Taste" features more than 60 one-of-a-kind ethnic food items. We also provide continuous multicultural entertainment programs and venues that will delight one and all.


Please visit our Beer and Wine Tent where all the net proceeds are deposited into the "Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit Fund." Due to your past generosity, more than \$1.5 million has been donated to the fund that has supported many youth programs, senior citizen groups; local charities and educational endeavors.

At this point, we must admit to one little problem that everyone strolling the "Taste" grounds seems to encounter, and that is the "I'm So Full I Can't Eat Another Bite Dilemma!" When this condition occurs we recommend resting your palate by sampling the entertainment offerings on any of our stages. Just about the time that you've had your fill of great entertainment, you should be ready to sample more of the best epicurean delights found at any food fest in the country.

And let it be known that we could not even attempt to host such a large event without the financial assistance of our fabulous business community or without the many volunteers who are responsible for making the Taste of Melrose Park run so smoothly.

Lastly, it is due to your overwhelming positive response to our philosophy of treating all fest goers as part of the family that makes the Taste of Melrose Park the most friendly and affordable food festival in all of Illinois.

Bon Appetit,


Mayor Ron Serpico



*Mayor
Ronald M. Serpico*



Celebrating Our 43rd Year

August 29th, 30th & 31st

Scan this code for
complete Taste of
Melrose Park
information.



Taste of Melrose Park is held at the Melrose Park Civic Center at 1000 N. 25th Avenue
(one block north of Lake Street on 25th Avenue)

Taste of Melrose Park Dates and Times

**Friday, Aug. 29 • 5:30-11 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 30 • Noon-11 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 31 • Noon-10:30 p.m.**

PARKING INFO FOR TASTE OF MELROSE PARK

Special Needs Parking:

- All special needs parking **must enter** at Carson Drive and Thomas.
- Follow the signs to the Special Needs parking lot.
- Golf carts for Special Needs people will be provided from **ONLY** the **Special Needs parking lot** to the **Taste Special needs drop off area** and back to the **Special Needs parking lot ONLY**.
- All special needs parking will require a Handicap Placard or Handicap License Plate.

General Parking:

General Parking is North of Division on 25th Ave. **All usable lots will have a Free Taste of Melrose Park Parking Lot Sign.**



**Fireworks Display
Sunday, Aug. 31
at 9:30 p.m.**



Taste of Melrose Park 2025 Food Menu

Rated Illinois' Most Family Affordable Food Festival

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
Athenian Foods Caprese Salad
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
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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
Melrose Park Senior Club Popcorn & Coffee
Guacamole Aguacatlan



2025 Taste of Melrose Park Entertainment Schedule

All Entertainment Is FREE

Winston Plaza 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 Shows

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

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

Main Drive Shows

Saturday, Aug. 30

and Sunday, Aug. 31

2:30 p.m. - Jesse White
Tumbling Team

Sunday, Aug. 31

3:45-4:30 p.m. - Chicago Garda
Pipes & Drums

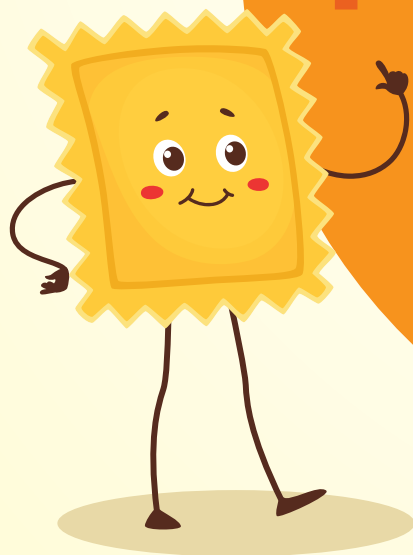
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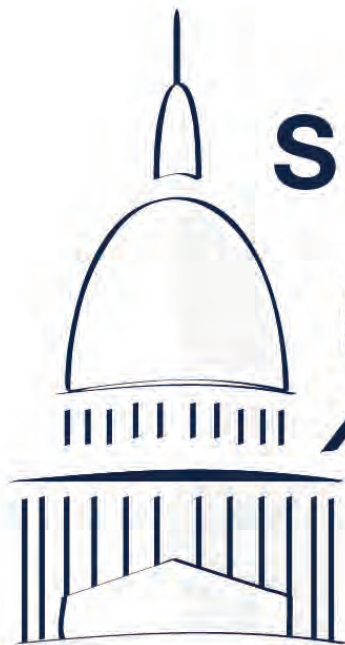


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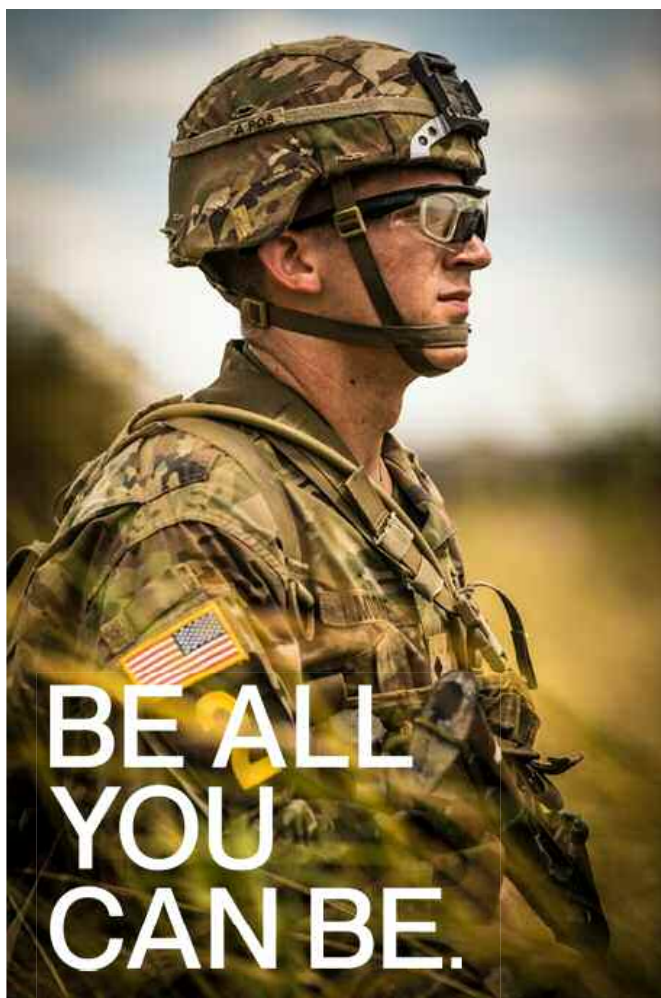
*Best Wishes to the
People of Metrose Park
and
Mayor Ron Serpico
on Another Wonderful
Taste of Metrose Park!*

Best wishes to
Melrose Park on
a delicious and
successful Taste of
Melrose Park 2025!

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and the
43rd Annual Taste of Melrose Park!***



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Fall Family Fun Fest

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Triton College Botanical Gardens (East Campus)

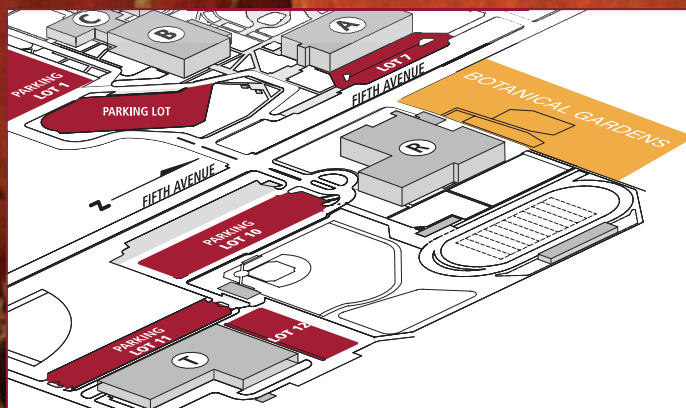
The fest features a variety of autumn-themed activities and games for all ages.

This event is free and open to the public.

Families are welcome to take home a free pumpkin (while supplies last).

There will be food and treats available for purchase.

Go to triton.edu/fallfest for future updates.



The Botanical Gardens are located on the east side of the Triton College campus, directly behind the R Building.



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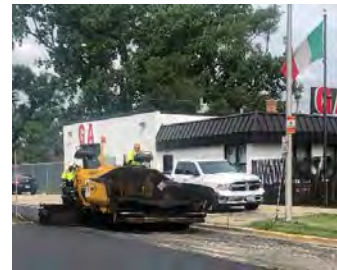
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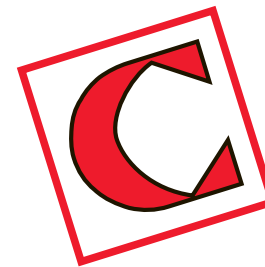
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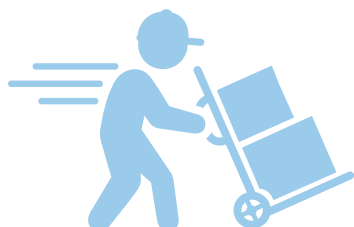
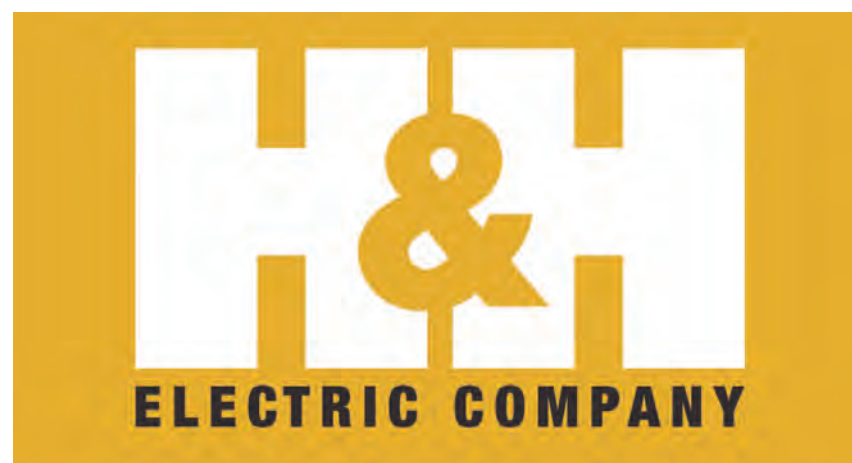
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- 9 a.m.-Noon; Bulger Park 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Three-day fee – R\$203/NR\$233 or two-day fee – R\$141/NR\$171 per month plus \$100 nonrefundable deposit; School year runs Sept. 8, 2025-May 8, 2026.

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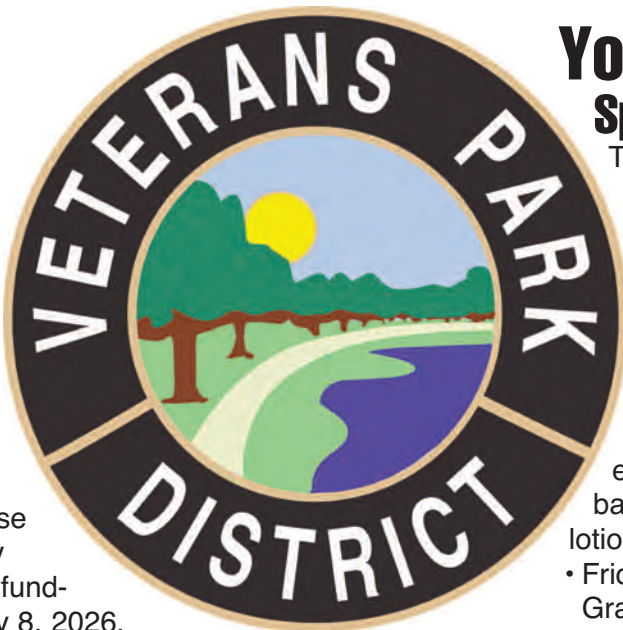
- Wednesdays, Oct. 29-Nov. 19, 12:15-1 p.m.; Class is held at Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park. Fee – R\$40/NR\$50; Participants must meet program requirements (2's required to attend with adult); Minimum number of participants per session/week is five.

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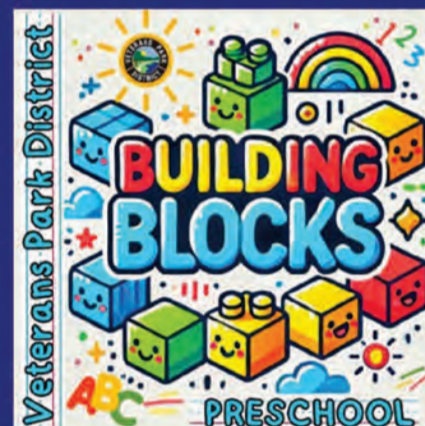
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Triton College NEWS

Triton Helps Students Build Skills for Academic and Career Success

Sometimes, we all need a little bit of help — a little assistance here and there to get our ducks in a row, catch up on our work, and prepare for the next task. But asking for help and getting the guidance you need is often easier said than done, according to Danielle Flores, coordinator of the Center for Access and Accommodative Services (CAAS) at Triton College.

That's why Flores is working to break down barriers and improve access for students, helping them foster and strengthen the skills needed to achieve their academic goals and set themselves up for success when they enter the workforce.

Flores specializes in executive function coaching, which helps individuals develop and strengthen the cognitive skills needed for organization, planning and task completion. Coaching focuses on improving everyday skills like time management, organization, planning, working memory and emotional regulation.

"Executive function coaching isn't a novel concept," Flores said. "But it's something that frequently flies under the radar. And asking for help is something that has become highly stigmatized," she added.

"We're supposed to be people who can do everything and anything, but that's just not how it is," she said. "I think we learn from our mistakes and I think it's always important to ask for help because there's always someone else who can do something better than you — and that's OK."

"You can't always be the best. I think it's important that we normalize asking for help."

Flores has provided executive function coaching at Triton College since the spring of 2024. Since then, she's helped roughly 30 students. Most students who seek her assistance need help with time management, turning in assignments on time, focusing, studying and improving their grades.

Flores said the coaching process involves identifying specific challenges, setting goals and implementing strategies to attain better outcomes. Because no two people are the same, each case is individualized and the frequency with which she meets with students varies. Students work with her to identify where they need help and make a plan to reach their objectives.

First-year student William Malinowski has been attending coaching sessions with Flores since starting at Triton. Malinowski, who's pursuing an associate degree in business, said he was falling behind in his classes and struggling to keep his grades up, prompting him to seek guidance from Flores.

"When I had an issue with a class and my grades, I always talked to Danielle about them and she would help me understand what I should do," he said.

After meeting with Flores, Malinowski began using Otter.ai, a speech-to-text software that allows users to record conversations and lectures, and convert them into written text for later reference.

"By using Otter, it really helped me study for my exams, tests and also my assignments," said Malinowski, who urged other students to seek academic coaching if they think they might need it.

Flores, who holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, previously worked in special education for 15 years and later in the private sector, coaching stu-

dents and working adults from across the country and beyond in executive functioning.

"These aren't just students that need a helping hand," she said. "These are doctors and lawyers, and they just couldn't quite manage their schedules or they didn't have the best planning resources. These are everyday people."

Flores emphasizes that her work at Triton College is about much more than helping students improve their grades. It's about working with them to build skills that will allow them to excel in their future careers.

"The cool part is that in finding the tools that work for you now, when you go into the workplace, you can be successful. You can complete your tasks efficiently, and then you can have time for a balanced life, a family and friends."

Students interested in coaching sessions can contact academiccoaching@triton.edu.

Triton College's Ava Connerty Named USTFCCCA Scholar Athlete of the Year

Mere months after making school history at Triton College, recent graduate Ava Connerty was selected the 2025 NJCAA Division III Women's Outdoor Track & Field National Scholar Track Athlete of the Year by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA).

The USTFCCCA recognized top scholar athletes from all collegiate levels, including Connerty, for standing out in all areas of the student-athlete experience.

Connerty, a two-time NJCAA All-American who wrapped up her monumental athletic career as a Trojan in May, has been a trailblazer for Triton's Track & Field Program. Her recent accolade marks the first time in program history that an athlete from Triton has been named National Track Scholar Athlete of the Year in outdoor track & field.

"It's an honor to be recognized (by the USTFCCCA) for both my work on the track and in the classroom," said Connerty, of North Riverside. "This award is a reminder that my dedication in all areas paid off."

Connerty won the 100-meter hurdles and was a member of the third-place 4x400 relay team at the 2025 NJCAA DIII Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Utica, New York, on May 10.

Her championship run made her the first women's track athlete representing Triton to win an individual national title. In a thrilling finish, Connerty captured the national title by two-tenths of a second.

"I honestly never thought that I would be a national champion," Connerty said in May about her win. "It's so amazing seeing all of my training pay off in the best way possible. Knowing that I'm the first female track national champion in Triton history is unbelievable."

Connerty's drive on the track was matched by her zeal in the classroom, enabling her to achieve a cumulative 3.9 grade-point average during the 2024-2025 academic year. Two weeks after winning her national title, Connerty walked the stage of the Rosemont Theatre as a Triton graduate, leaving with an associate degree in psychology.

In June, Connerty committed to attend Nova Southeastern University, an NCAA Division II institution in Davie, Florida, on an athletic scholarship where she'll continue to run track and pursue her four-year degree.

"Having Ava run for Triton College has been a great experience," said Trojans head track & field coach Jason Guevarra. "Not only is she a tremendous athlete, but she values education and success. I am so proud of Ava and what she has accomplished on and off the track. She will be a great addition to her new team when she transfers to Nova Southeastern in Florida."

NEWS89 School District89 BRIEFS

Athletic Summer Camp Wraps Up with Energy, Teamwork, and Growth

District 89's Athletic Summer Camp wrapped up on July 31, marking another successful summer of movement, teamwork and growth. Students participated in basketball, soccer, conditioning and team-building activities, building both skills and confidence.

For the first time, the district launched an Inclusive Camp for students in the STRIDE, STARS and SCC programs, inspired by the Special Olympics. This new offer created a welcoming space for all students to enjoy physical activity, friendship and fun.

"The Inclusive Camp was a powerful addition," said Athletic Coordinator Mike Lawrence. "It brought our community together and highlighted the importance of inclusion in athletics."

Families praised the camp for keeping students active and engaged. As the new school year begins, District 89 remains committed to offering inclusive, enriching experiences for every student.



www.maywood89.org • Follow Us on Twitter "@maywood89"

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

Eternally grateful. Abundance of blessings and thanks for your service.

Dear parishioners and devotees,



Eternally grateful. Abundance of blessings and thanks for your service. On the celebration of the 132nd Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, I want to commend the entire Feast Committee, the Altar and Rosary Society, the Spanish community and groups, the altar servers, the choir and all the volunteers. Without you this Feast would not have happened and with no reluctance, this year was a remarkable one.

Your service and dedication helped once again the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to become a center of genuine religious devotion to the Blessed Mother, a sacred place of prayer, recollection and spiritual refreshment for hundreds of people who have participated in the Novena and Feast Day.

Finally, dear Mayor Ron Serpico, I am writing to commend you for all the support toward the 2025 Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. As you know, this special event attracts hundreds of visitors to our community each year and, without the assistance of the village of Melrose Park, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel would not have been another success.



Thank you. Blessings to all of you.
VIVA LA MADONNA DEL CARMINE.
Rev. Leandro Fossá, C.S.

OLMC Receives Young Religious Scalabrinians from the Provinces of St. John the Baptist and St. Charles Borromeo



On another note, I want to refer to what happened at OLMC on July 16, 2025. The parish was honored to receive the Young Religious Scalabrinians from the Provinces of St. John the Baptist and St. Charles Borromeo, which encompasses Canada, the United States of America, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Venezuela. This was an expression of gratitude to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on the occasion of the 132nd Anniversary of La Festa della Madonna del Carmine. Our parish has been served by the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo Scalabrinians since 1905. Our main celebrant was Bishop José María Maldonado from the Archdiocese of Chicago.



And not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance and endurance-proven character, and proven character – hope. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us (Rom 5, 3-5.)

The presence amongst us of this large number of Scalabrini clergy gives us hope.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
PARISH & SHRINE

Special Masses and Events

September 2025

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish Shrine

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

📍 1101 N. 23rd Ave. Melrose Park, IL

☎ (708) 344 - 4140

🌐 www.olmcparish.org

1

LABOR DAY
9AM Trilingual Mass

2-5
8-12

MARIA SANTISSIMA ADDOLORATA FEAST
7:30pm in the Shrine

6-7

1st. DAY OF CATECHISM CLASSES

8

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED MOTHER
6:30pm Mass & Rosary (all languages)

11

APPRECIATION MASS - All First Responders
6:30pm Silent Procession - 7:00pm English Mass

13

FIESTA DE INDEPENDENCIA
All Latin American Countries

14

MARIA SS ADDOLORATA FEAST DAY
10:30am Bilingual Mass (Eng/Ita)

15

OUR LADY OF SORROWS "Healing Mass"
6:30pm Trilingual Mass (Engl/Spa/Ita)

16

INDEPENECENCIA
6:30pm Spanish Mass

21

CATECHIST COMISSIONING
9:00am Spanish Mass
PADRE PIO FEAST
10:30am Italian Mass follow by
Procession, reception and longer procession

27

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY HILL (TBD)



Fr. Tom McCarthy

Fall Retreat with Fr. Tom McCarthy

Saturday, Sept. 13 • 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. (Includes the 5:30 p.m. Mass.)

What it Means to be a Catholic Today, with Inspiration from the Augustinians and Pope Leo XIV

Fr. Tom McCarthy returns to talk about the Augustinian influence and Pope Leo XIV, and being a Catholic.

Fr. Leandro Fossá will give a talk about our parish family.

Deacon Ivan Lazcano will share his experiences about being new to our parish.

There will be breakout group discussions, lunch, prayer, time for individual meditation, spiritual direction or confession.

Cost is \$20 per person and you must register to attend. Deadline to register is Tuesday, Sept. 8. For more information, call the Rectory at (708) 344-4140.



Our Lady of the Rosary/Special Mass/Message of Hope

Tuesday, Oct. 7 • 6:30 p.m. – Rosary in the Chapel Led by Altar & Rosary

7 p.m. – Mass and Reflection with Fr. Masters in the Church • 8:30 p.m. – Refreshments in the Gym

Fr. Burke Masters returns to Mt. Carmel to celebrate the Our Lady of the Rosary with a special Mass and message of hope on Tuesday Oct. 7, as this jubilee year comes to a close. For more information, call the Rectory at (708) 344-4140.



St. Anthony Society
Breakfast Buffet

St. Anthony Society Annual Breakfast Buffet

Sunday, Oct. 12 • 8:30 a.m.-Noon

The St. Anthony Society of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine will once again be holding their annual Breakfast Buffet in the parish gym on Sunday, Oct. 12, 8:30 a.m.-noon. The gym is located on the corner of 22nd and Cortez in Melrose Park. Donation is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. For tickets or more information, call the Rectory at (708) 344-4140.



911 Remembrance

For those who

serve and protect...

A celebratory mass of thanks and a tribute to Homeland Security/Public Safety, police, fire, security, military, medical, emergency, and all first responders...

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

6:30pm Procession

Watch all the neighboring communities join the Melrose Park Homeland Security/Public Safety, Police and Fire Departments in a special "silent procession"

7:30pm MASS

Members of all neighboring Police and Fire Departments, Village Dignitaries, different Military branches, and First Responders, will join the clergy in the entrance procession to begin mass.

During the Mass

The memorial Fire bell will ring and a wreath presentation to honor all our fallen heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice will be presented to the Blessed Mother, the Protectress of us all.

After Mass

Stay and enjoy an outdoor reception on the church patio

Come and pay tribute to those who entrust themselves under HER protection to serve and protect the community.

***Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine
1101 N 23rd Avenue, Melrose Park, IL 60160***

Call the office at 708-344-4140 for more information

*Holy Hill
And
The Basilica and
National Shrine
of
Mary Help of
Christians*



**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine
Fall Pilgrimage to Hubertus, WI**

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Join us as we visit the outdoor grottos, view the stations of the cross, pray to a rare statue of the Blessed Mother in the Shrine Chapel, and the Chapel of St. Therese, attend Mass in the Basilica, and “for the daring”, a climb up the 173 steps of the lookout tower for a beautiful view of the area. For the “not so daring,” There is a café and gift shop.

It's a full day of community, prayer, and spiritual refreshment

Approx. Cost:	\$60 per person (all inclusive)
Approx. Departure:	8:30am in front of OLMC church
Approx. Return:	8:30pm

Seating is limited, so reserve your space early.
Payment must be made at the time the reservation is made. The deadline is September 16, 2025.

To make a reservation or get more information, call the office at 708-344-4140.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine - Melrose Park, IL 60160



SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

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

1825 S. 9th Ave., Maywood, IL 60153

Stop by our Food Tray Booth at the Taste of Melrose Park from *August 29 - 31* and help support our parish by buying a food tray to carry or take home your food!

PASTOR

Reverend Marvin Ajic Arana, C.S.

PERMANENT DEACONS

Mike Barnish
Giulio Camerini
Gabriel Nevarez
Eduardo Rodriguez
Dwight Sullivan, Sr.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

SUN: 9am - 2pm (St. Eulalia)
MON: 12pm - 8pm (Sacred Heart)
TUES: 10am - 6pm (Sacred Heart)
WED: CLOSED
THURS: 10am - 6pm (Sacred Heart)
FRI: 12pm - 8pm (Sacred Heart)
SAT: CLOSED

PARISH CONTACT INFO

PHONE: 708-344-0757
EMAIL: shseparish@archchicago.org
WEBSITE: shsparish.org

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

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

WEEKDAYS

8:00am English at Sacred Heart



Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish Pasta Dinner & Show

Saturday, October 18th, 2025 - 6:00pm
Sacred Heart Church Marian Hall (Doors Open 5:30pm)

819N. 16th Avenue, Melrose Park, IL 60160
Church Basement (Use Parking Lot Entrance)

*****Dine In Only*****

Ticket Pre Sales Only



**For Tickets
Call:
(708) 344-0757**

**• Split-The-Pot
• Gift Baskets Raffle**



Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish, 819 N. 16th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160
www.shsparish.org - (708) 344-0757

**Cost: \$ 20 Adults
\$ 17 Seniors (65+)
\$ 12 Children (-10)
Pasta, Meatballs, Salad,
Bread, Dessert,
Pop & Coffee.
Wine, Sangria, Beer
Cash Bar.**

**Live DJ
Entertainment by
Harold Hall**





SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH



WEBSITE: shsparish.org

PHONE: 708-344-0757

EMAIL: shseparish@archchicago.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



First Friday Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Every First Friday of the month **7:00pm** at **Sacred Heart**.
Upcoming dates: **September 5, October 3**

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**.



August Fest at St. Eulalia on AUGUST 24

Food, Music, & Fun **10:30am—3:00pm** at **St. Eulalia**.

Taco Sale on SEPTEMBER 14

11:00am - 3pm in **St. Eulalia Parish Hall**.



Our Lady of Cobre Mass on SEPTEMBER 14

4:00pm at **Sacred Heart**.

Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish **"MERRY & BRIGHT"** CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 2025 from 10:00am—4:00pm

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING EARLY VENDOR REGISTRATION

We are looking for crafters and artisans that are interested in participating in this event. If you are interested, please call the Sacred Heart Parish office at 708-344-0757.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION
(2-Year Program per Sacrament)



- REQUIREMENTS:
1. Baptism Certificate
 2. Birth Certificate
 3. First Communion Certificate*
(*for 1st Year of Confirmation)

Contact our parish's Religious Education office at **708-344-0757 ext. 105**.

The Religious Education office is located in the basement of the Parish Rectory office at 819 N 16th Ave., Melrose Park, IL. Please visit shsparish.org/religious-education for more information.

Community Mental Wellness Strategy Meeting for Proviso Township



Learn about the health and wellness components within our programming

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2025

START TIME: 6:00 PM

END TIME: 7:00 PM

**2619 CONGRESS STREET BELLWOOD, IL
60104**

Contact us

(708) 449-4309

youthservices@provisotownship.illinois.gov





PROVISO TOWNSHIP MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

BRIEF

Proviso Township Mental Health Commission Behavioral Health Services Are Available

Did you know that all residents in Proviso Township are eligible for low or no cost behavioral health services through agency partnerships with The Proviso Township Mental Health Commission (PTMHC)? Whether it's mental health support, a substance use issue, or needing assistance for someone with intellectual or developmental disabilities, the PTMHC is here for you.

"We're truly a community-based resource that provides behavioral health services using providers right here in Proviso Township," said PTMHC Board President Mike Corrigan. "Anyone in Proviso Township can call and be connected with services."

Established in 1966, the PTMHC has always had the health and well-being of their residents at the core of its mission. Through collaborative relationships with local behavioral health agencies and providers, the commission is able to provide inexpensive or free resources to all Proviso Township residents.

To learn more about the PTMHC or to talk with someone about behavioral health services, you can call (708) 449-5508 or visit www.PTMHC.org.

Proviso Township Mental Health Commission • 4565 W. Harrison St., Third Floor • Hillside, IL 60162



@PTMHC



@provisomhc



@ProvisoMentalHealth

Youth Soccer Clinic Offers Surprise Meet & Greet with Local Soccer Hero

Chicago Fire FC Came to Melrose Park in June with Coaches Putting Young Athletes Through Drills and Giving Them Tips During Scrimmages

Chicago Fire FC came to Melrose Park in June with coaches putting young athletes through drills and giving them tips during scrimmages. A surprise visit from Chicago Fire FC homegrown midfielder Mauricio Pineda gave kids the chance to meet one of their heroes and hopefully cement their place as fans of the scrappy Chicago sports team which just unveiled plans to build a new professional soccer stadium in Chicago's South Loop, east of the river.



"We're thrilled to host the Chicago Fire and give our young people the opportunity to learn from the best," said Melrose Park Mayor Ron Serpico. "Youth sports are important to learning teamwork, building confidence and a developing a healthy lifestyle. Having the Chicago Fire participate was exciting and very fun for the kids."

The clinic was held for kids of all ages from Leyden and Proviso townships, and was sponsored by those townships, the village of Melrose Park, Veterans Park District and an official healthcare plan partner of the Chicago Fire.

"A love of soccer starts early and we're thrilled to partner with local communities to help children deepen their love of the sport," said Dean Arrowsmith, manager, Soccer In The Community.

Proviso Township Supervisor Mike Corrigan and Leyden Township Supervisor Rocco Biscaglio were part of the event for kids to work with Chicago Fire coaches on technique. Approximately 60 young athletes participated in the clinic.

"Township government is as local as it gets," said Corrigan. "To see the inspiration and excitement that this brings to each kid and their family – that's why we're involved to help our residents become healthy, active members in our communities."

Biscaglio said that it was also inspiring to have this collaborative partnership for the clinic. "Healthy adults start out as healthy kids," he said. "I think we all understand that and it's good to see support of events like this."



Proviso Township Handyman Program

Late Summer 2024 – Proviso Township Handyman News

Are you having problems with your door or gate locks? We can replace those for you!
It's time to replace your furnace filter in preparation for the fall months.

It's getting dark out earlier! Time to make sure your outside light fixtures and security lights are in working order.
We can change the lightbulbs or the fixtures. We can also help put away your lawn furniture.

When was the last time you changed the batteries in your smoke alarms?

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 - No Rodding
Grab Bars - Install or Replace	TV/TV Converter Box - Install & Program (NO Comcast)
Handrails - Install or Replace	Weather Stripping - Doors & Windows
Light Bulbs - Change	
Light Fixtures - Repair or Replace	



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



Illinois State Representative
NORMA HERNANDEZ
77th District



*Illinois State Representative
Norma Hernandez*

Springfield Updates – State Rep. Norma Hernandez Wraps Up Session with a Vision for the Future

State Rep. Norma Hernandez is deeply committed to serving the families of the 77th District, championing legislation that protects their rights, safety and financial success. Her advocacy is evident in her strong support for the Safe Schools for All Act (HB3247), which ensures every child in Illinois can access a free public education regardless of immigration or citizenship status. The bill prohibits discrimination in schools and protects students' privacy from immigration enforcement. Rep. Hernandez is also a proud supporter of the Safe Gun Storage Act, now law, which requires secure firearm storage and strengthens reporting requirements for lost or stolen guns. These measures reflect her dedication to building safer schools, homes and neighborhoods across the district.

Beyond safety and equity, Rep. Hernandez remains a vocal advocate for economic fairness. She understands the strain that rising property taxes place on families and is fighting for meaningful tax relief to make homeownership more affordable. Her commitment extends to promoting responsible government spending by pushing to eliminate wasteful programs and inefficiencies at every level.

Through each initiative, Rep. Hernandez remains focused on advancing practical, people-first solutions that uplift her constituents and reflect the values of the 77th District.

Despite the damaging effects of recent federal legislation led in Washington, Rep. Hernandez and other Illinois leaders are taking proactive steps to protect its communities. While the federal budget bill includes delayed but severe cuts designed to conceal their full impact until after the 2026 elections, Rep. Hernandez and other legislators saw the warning signs and built safeguards into the state's budget. The state has prepared tools to manage potential disruptions in federal funding and remains committed to making smart, compassionate decisions that prioritize the well-being of residents over politics.

Health care access is one of the most urgent challenges. As federal cuts threaten more than \$50 billion in Medicaid funding and put 300,000 Illinois families at risk of losing coverage, the state is working to protect health care infrastructure. Efforts are underway to preserve services in rural hospitals, nursing homes and clinics like Planned Parenthood, which provide cancer screenings, birth control and reproductive care. Illinois is stepping in to stand up for patients and safeguarding care for the most vulnerable.

The state is also responding to cuts in nutrition assistance by reaffirming its commitment to food security. Over 340,000 Illinois families could be affected by reduced SNAP benefits, but state leaders recognize the broader impact on community well-being and local economies. SNAP supports thousands of jobs and injects nearly \$1 billion into Illinois wages annually. By emphasizing food access and continuing to support families and small businesses, Illinois is reinforcing the safety net that helps communities thrive.

Rep. Hernandez and other state leaders are pushing forward on clean energy and education despite federal rollbacks. With billions in clean energy investment now at risk and nearly 300 projects in jeopardy, the state remains committed to advancing renewable energy and job creation. At the same time, the legislature is exploring ways to support students who may be impacted by cuts to federal student aid and loan protections. By focusing on long-term growth, equity and opportunity, Rep. Norma Hernandez is working to counteract the effects of federal cuts and build a future where every resident has the chance to succeed.

77th District of Illinois Kicked Off the 2025 Sunday Strides Series in Melrose Park

On Sunday, July 27, women from across the 77th District gathered in Melrose Park to kick off the 2025 Sunday Strides summer event – an energetic and empowering community walk hosted by State Rep. Norma Hernandez in partnership with Coach Susie Castro of O'Hare Fuerza and Conditioning. The series, now in full stride, invites women to tour the district on foot while building connections, promoting wellness, and discovering the rich resources available throughout their neighborhoods.

This year's focus is on spotlighting local parks and the opening walk put a well-deserved emphasis on the parks owned and maintained by the Veterans Park District. Starting in Melrose Park, participants made their way through Bulger Park, Bataan Park and the George A. Leoni Complex – three vital spaces that offer everything from playgrounds and fitness facilities to open green areas for families and residents to gather. Along the way, walkers had the chance to connect with one another, engage with local leaders and take in the sights of the very communities they call home.

Melrose Park and the Veterans Park District played a key role in the success of the day, offering a welcoming setting and strong local spirit that energized the group from start to finish. We also extend our thanks to the Melrose Park Police Department, whose two bike officers accompanied the walkers and ensured the group moved safely through the route.



A special highlight of the day was the visit to the George A. Leoni Complex, where staff provided a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility and shared the variety of programs and services available through the Veterans Park District. From youth sports to adult fitness classes, the complex demonstrated how much our local parks contribute to the health and vitality of the community. It was a perfect way to cap off an energizing walk and an exciting launch to a summer series that's all about movement, connection and pride in the 77th District.

Don't hesitate to follow us on social media @rep.normahernandez on Instagram or on Facebook as we get closer to other exciting events we will be hosting near you!



Three Programs, One Vision: State Rep. Norma Hernandez Recaps Youth Engagement Wins

Over the past two years, State Rep. Norma Hernandez has proudly led three successful cohorts for the youth of the Illinois 77th District. This started with the Youth Advisory Council. It implemented a participatory budgeting component where \$5,000 in funds were donated toward the youth council by Rep. Hernandez so participating students could have a budget to discuss and decide on how to properly allocate funds toward projects that would be most beneficial to youth in the 77th District. Students from local area high school districts overlapping with the 77th District convened every month to share their ideas and discuss which were the best projects to select and fund for the coming year. From that, the Youth Ambassador Program and Student Advisory Assembly were born.

A winning project from the Youth Advisory Council was the Youth Ambassador Program, which was amongst the two selected projects by our young participants. This youth program consisted of 10 students who were selected through an application process to become youth ambassadors. Each Youth Ambassador comes

from a high school district that overlaps with the 77th District. These youth ambassadors were split up into cohorts based on township, and each cohort actively participates in attending library, village and board of education meetings. Our monthly meetings served as a platform for the students to share and discuss their experiences, as well as what they've learned from these meetings.

After this program, came the Student Advisory Assembly. The second among two selected projects by our young participants. The Student Advisory Assembly Program engaged students in local governance by requiring participants to attend monthly school board meetings. The program brings together high school and college students from the 77th District to trade discourse from their schools and communities. The Student Advisory Assembly serves as a think tank, empowering students to propose creative solutions and initiatives. Using our office as a resource, students had the opportunity to develop ideas based on



insights gathered from the meetings they attended and other students they convened with.

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

The success of these programs 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

Our New Website is Live!

Our office is so excited to announce the launch of our new website. You can find information on county services, upcoming events, news around the 16th District, sign up for our newsletter and more!

Please visit www.commissionerfrankjaguilar.com to view the website.

President Preckwinkle Announces \$25 Million in Grant Awards for Community-Based Programming to Address Gun Violence

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, the Cook County Justice Advisory Council and nonprofit leaders came together to announce grant awards under two complementary grant initiatives designed to improve community safety in Cook County.

Through the Cook County Community Violence Intervention (CC-CVI) initiative, the County is investing \$20 million in community-based services for residents at risk of being involved in gun violence. The Cook County Wraparound Services for Survivors of Gun Violence (CC-SGV) initiative is beginning with an initial \$5 million investment in community-based services that support survivors of gun violence and their families.

To learn more about the CC-CVI and CC-SGV initiatives, and other community safety investments, visit CookCountyIL.gov/JACGrants.

Commissioner Aguilar Partners with Leyden Township for Job Fair

On Saturday, June 14, Commissioner Aguilar partnered with Commissioner Maggie Trevor and Leyden Township Supervisor Rocco Biscaglio to host a job fair in Franklin Park.

Thank you to all our co-sponsors who joined us and to all the businesses and attendees who came out. Commissioner Aguilar will continue to work with local officials and businesses to ensure we are making these job opportunities as accessible to the community as possible, allowing for people to find good work with dignity in the communities they live in.

LeadCare Cook County Celebrates 200 Lead Service Lines Replaced at Childcare Facilities Across Suburban Cook County

LeadCare Cook County recently reached a major public health milestone with the replacement of its 200th lead service line at a childcare facility in suburban Cook County. LeadCare Cook County will remain open through the summer of 2026.

Childcare providers can learn more and apply to the program at leadcarecookcounty.org or by calling (773) 389-5657. Assistance is available in both English and Spanish.

Cook County, Rebuilding Together Celebrate Completion of Veteran Home Repair Program

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle joined the county's Department of Veterans Affairs along with representatives from Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago (RTMC) and other elected officials to announce the completion of the Veteran Home Repair Program. In partnership with RTMC, Cook County allocated \$1.25 million to complete indoor and outdoor repairs to 30 veteran-owned homes throughout Cook County. This free program was available to Cook County veteran homeowners, dependent spouses or caretakers who provide housing for a veteran.

For more information about the program, visit www.cookcountyil.gov/service/veteran-home-repair-program

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

This past June, 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.

"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/.



News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

Giannoulias Announces Expanded Walk-In Saturday Hours at 12 Metro Chicago DMVs

Urges Residents to Cross the DMV Off the End-of-Summer Checklist by Visiting a Saturday Location

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced 12 DMV locations will begin offering walk-in Saturday hours through Sept. 6.

With the end of summer approaching, many Illinoisans are rushing to finish their summer checklists. To help reduce weekday wait times and increase the number of residents the DMV can serve, the office is expanding the number of locations open on Saturdays.

These locations will serve walk-in customers, 7:30 a.m.-noon, offering a variety of express services ranging from renewing driver's licenses and vehicle registrations to acquiring a REAL ID.

The following locations will be open to assist Illinoisans:

Addison – 50 E. Oak St., Addison, IL 60101	Aurora – 970 N. Lake St. Suite B, Aurora, IL 60506
Bridgeview – 7358 W. 87th St., Bridgeview, IL 60455	Chicago Heights – 570 W. 209th St., Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Chicago West – 5301 W. Lexington St., Chicago, IL 60644	Des Plaines – 1470 Lee St., Des Plaines, IL 60018
Elgin – 595 S. State St., Elgin, IL 60123	Joliet – 201 S. Joyce Rd., Joliet, IL 60435
Lake Zurich – 951 S. Rand Rd., Lake Zurich, IL 60047	Melrose Park – 1903 N. Mannheim Rd., Melrose Park, IL 60160
St. Charles – 3851 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174	Woodstock – 428 S. Eastwood Dr., Woodstock, IL 60098

The following DMV locations will continue to maintain their regular appointment-only Saturday hours:

Chicago North – 5401 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60630	Chicago South – 9901 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Chicago, IL 60628
Deerfield – Deerfield Park Plaza, 405 Lake Cook Rd., A6-9, Deerfield, IL 60015	
Lombard – 837 Westmore-Meyer Rd., Unit A2, Lombard IL 60148	Midlothian – 14434 S. Pulaski Ave., Midlothian, IL 60445
Naperville – 931 W. 75th St., Suite 161, Naperville, IL 60565	Schaumburg – 1227 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173
Waukegan – 617 S. Green Bay Rd., Waukegan, IL 60085 (Open now-Sept. 6.)	

During the End-of-Summer Saturday Hours, customers can apply for or renew a driver's license, state ID card or a REAL ID; switch from a temporary visitor driver's license (TVDL) to a standard driver's license; renew their vehicle registration; or apply for persons with disabilities placards. Make sure to visit www.ilsos.gov to check what documents are required for each transaction type.

Illinois residents going to the DMV specifically for a REAL ID can go online to access an interactive checklist to make sure they have the documents they need before heading to a DMV.

Giannoulias Launches Driving Change Campaign for Auto Insurance Fairness

Campaign Seeks Input from Illinoisans Through New Website and Statewide Town Halls

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias is launching a statewide advocacy campaign aimed at preventing insurance companies from using socio-economic data – such as credit scores, ZIP codes and age – to charge Illinoisans higher auto insurance rates.

As part of his “Driving Change” Campaign, Giannoulias is seeking input from Illinoisans, asking them to share their stories about unfair and discriminatory ratemaking practices employed by auto insurance companies. Giannoulias launched the campaign recently in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, joined by supporters, including AARP Illinois and legislative sponsors State Sen. Ram Villivalam (8th District-Chicago) and State Rep. Rita Mayfield (60th District-Waukegan).

“As secretary of state, I strongly believe that an individual's driving record should serve as the primary factor that's analyzed when setting auto insurance rates,” Giannoulias said. “Insurance companies need to implement a ratemaking process that's fair and transparent. The current system results in fewer Illinoisans being able to afford insurance and fewer opting to pay for it, making our roads less safe for everyone.”

“Older drivers in Illinois are the safest drivers and their auto insurance rates should reflect this,” said Philippe Largent, state director for AARP Illinois. “On behalf of our 1.7 million members across the state, we applaud Secretary Giannoulias for his interest in finding a ratemaking process that does not discriminate against drivers for their age. And we look forward to working with his office, the insurance industry and the general assembly to develop criteria that ensures Illinois' safe drivers are not penalized for non-driving related factors. They deserve rates that are as low and fair as possible.”

A new Secretary of State website – www.ilsos.gov/drivingchange – enables Illinoisans to learn more about the issue and easily share their stories about unfair and discriminatory ratemaking practices by insurance companies. The site also allows users to email their state representative and senator, and urge them to support reforming the current system.

Over the next several weeks, the Secretary of State's Office is also conducting a series of town hall meetings across the state to gather local input and help inform legislation to be filed in the next general assembly session. Locations and times of the town hall meetings will be posted on www.ilsos.gov/drivingchange.

Upcoming town hall meetings: Aug. 26 – South Suburbs; Sept. 3 – Metro East; Sept. 17 – Champaign; Sept. 22 – Chicago, West Side; Sept. 24 – Peoria; Oct. 1 – Rockford; and Oct. 15 – Springfield.

Illinois-focused studies have revealed ratemaking inequities and disparities, including insurers on average increasing rates on senior drivers and charging consumers with a safe driving record and poor credit hundreds of dollars more than someone with a DUI conviction and excellent credit. As a result, drivers from disadvantaged neighborhoods and communities of color disproportionately suffer.

The launch of the campaign comes as insurance rates for both homes and automobiles are skyrocketing. According to Insurify, Illinois auto insurance rates increased 18% in 2024 and are projected to increase another 4% in 2025, bringing the projected annual cost of full coverage to \$2,050. Meanwhile, new tariffs are expected to cause auto part prices to climb and result in insurance rates soaring even higher.

Along with factors like credit reports, address and age, insurance companies are using third-party site data from sources like social media and common cellphone apps, which can be used in a discriminatory way to unfairly determine rates.

In addition, State Farm announced recently that it would start hiking homeowners insurance rates by more than 27%, prompting Gov. JB Pritzker to call on the legislature to find a solution.

Like most states, Illinois requires every vehicle owner to buy insurance, but it is one of only two states – along with Wyoming – that doesn't require prior rate review to protect insurance customers from excessive or unfair rates.

Giannoulas Legislation to Enhance Protections for Illinois Libraries and Librarians Signed into Law

Libraries Can Use State Funding Grants to Increase Safety

Bipartisan legislation drafted by Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas designed to improve security at libraries and enhance safety for librarians was recently signed into law.

The measure, which was approved in the general assembly this spring, allows the Secretary of State's Office to issue funding grants to increase security measures at public, school and academic libraries.

"I firmly believe that libraries should serve as welcoming places for lifelong learning and community engagement, but unfortunately, they have faced increased threats of violence and acts of intimidation in recent years," Giannoulas said. "Meanwhile, the personal safety and welfare of many librarians has been placed at risk for simply doing their jobs. Their personal safety at work should not be their primary concern."

The legislation, which was signed into law recently by Gov. JB Pritzker and takes effect on Jan. 1, 2026, was sponsored by State Sen. Laura Murphy (28th District-Des Plaines) and State Rep. Michael Coffey Jr. (95th District-Springfield), and had strong support from the Illinois Library Association and the Illinois Municipal League.

The legislation comes after several libraries across the state received bomb threats in recent years, including the Illinois State Library. There have been more than 25 bomb threats with multiple libraries responding to repeat threats during the past two years.

While state law contains penalties for threats targeting schools, public officials and human services providers, it does not include the same protections for all libraries and librarians.

Under the legislation, state library grant applicants will have the ability to use funding to install things like security cameras, silent alarms or security check points for which funding is not always available and until now grants were not authorized to support.

About the Illinois Secretary of State's Office

As the largest secretary of state's office in the nation, the Illinois Secretary of State processes more transactions and is visited by more residents than any other.

From issuing driver's licenses and registering vehicles to maintaining the organ donor registry, incorporating business entities and administering the state's literacy efforts, our office directly touches the lives of nearly everyone in Illinois.

We are dedicated to transforming the office to best serve Illinoisans by redefining public service, streamlining operations, improving customer service and reducing wait times at DMVs.

What We Do

- Manage one of the state's largest databases, holding more than 2 billion records and keeping track of approximately 9 million drivers, 11 million registered vehicles and more than 1 million registered business entities.
- Promote safe driving by educating motorists and advocating for laws to reduce distracted and impaired driving.
- Preserve and store more than 75,000 cubic feet of documents and artifacts as the state archivist, and handle more than 28 million requests for information annually.
- Process approximately 789,000 voter registration applications annually through our Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) System.
- Issue approximately 600,000 parking placards for persons with disabilities and crack down on the illegal use and abuse of placards.
- Register new businesses and oversee 1 million business entities, including corporations, limited liability companies and not-for-profit corporations.
- Regulate the investment industry in Illinois, investigating complaints of fraud and registering more than 200,000 securities salespersons and 22,000 investment advisers.
- Maintain the nation's largest organ and tissue donor registry, with more than 7.5 million registrants.
- Oversee approximately 150 sworn investigators comprising the Secretary of State's police force that secures the Capitol Complex, investigate automobile fraud and thefts, and operate the state's Bomb Squad Unit.
- Coordinate a network of more than 1,800 libraries and, in the last year, awarding more than 1,600 grants to public and school libraries across the state, totaling \$62 million.

Visit the Illinois Secretary of State's website at www.ilsos.gov/ for information you can use.



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

State Treasurer Michael Frerichs Announces Winners of 2025 Cream of the Crop Photography Contest

State Treasurer Michael Frerichs has announced the winning photographers for the 2025 Cream of the Crop Photography Contest, which provides Illinois students with a creative opportunity to share their vision of agriculture in our state. The top nine photographers, ages 8-18, will be awarded Bright Start 529 college savings scholarships.

“Congratulations to the young photographers who have showcased their talents and creativity in the Cream of the Crop competition this year,” Frerichs said. “Their photos illustrate the beauty and diversity of agriculture in Illinois.”

You can see the photos of the top three finishers in each of the three age categories on the state treasurer’s website. Winning entries and other photo submissions will be featured in the 2025-2026 Ag Invest calendar, which can be ordered online, and the first-place photos also will be displayed in the lobby of the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office building in downtown Springfield. A list of the winners can be found below.

The contest consisted of three age groups — ages 8-10, 11-14 and 15-18. In each age category, first-place winners are awarded a \$1,000 Bright Start 529 scholarship, second-place winners receive a \$500 scholarship, and third-place winners receive a \$250 scholarship.

Treasurer Frerichs administers the Bright Start 529 and Bright Directions 529 programs to assist families in saving and investing for higher education expenses, such as at a university or college, community college, trade school or apprenticeship.

For more information, visit BrightStart.com and BrightDirections.com.

The 2025 Cream of the Crop contest attracted 205 entries from students across Illinois. A panel of judges selected the winning photos. The judges were Scott Rhoads, regional president of Carrollton Bank; Gary Mueller, vice president of Havana National Bank; and Riley Wells, associate director of the Illinois Foundation FFA.

In its 13th year, the Cream of the Crop Contest is part of the Illinois State Treasurer’s Ag Invest Program. Ag Invest offers loan opportunities for Illinois farmers and agri-businesses to start, expand or add value to their farm operations. As one of the nation’s largest agricultural linked deposit programs, Ag Invest has supported more than 13,000 borrowers and partnered with more than 80 financial institutions since 2015, when Frerichs became treasurer.

8-10 Age Bracket Winners

First Place: Jerry F., Wheat, Springfield (Sangamon County)

Second Place: Emery E., Dinner Time, Wyoming (Stark County) • Third Place: Vada E., Cattle Feed, Wyoming (Stark County)

11-14 Age Bracket Winners

First Place: John G., Harvest Time, Stillman Valley (Ogle County)

Second Place: Jackson S., Highland Cows, Mason City (Mason County) • Third Place: Hope L., Evening Snack, Jerseyville (Jersey County)

15-18 Age Bracket Winners

First Place: Ryan L., Playtime, Villa Grove (Champaign County)

Second Place: Davin G., The Harvest, Marissa (St. Clair County) • Third Place: Nolan L., Dreaming of Big Wins, Wellington (Iroquois County)

Treasurer Frerichs invited the first-place winners to an Aug. 8 reception on Agriculture Day at the State Fair.

State Treasurer Michael Frerichs Returns Record \$303 Million to People, Businesses, Nonprofits in Fiscal Year 2025

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs returned a record \$303.8 million in missing money to nearly 312,000 residents, businesses and organizations through the I-CASH Program during Fiscal Year 2025.

Frerichs marked the record-breaking total by presenting a check for more than \$200,000 to the Orphans of the Storm animal shelter in Riverwoods. The money comes from a late Lake County woman who named the shelter as a beneficiary of her life insurance policy.

“We made common-sense changes to I-CASH to return more money to more folks and we are proud to set records,” Frerichs said. “But we’re even more proud of helping people. One of my biggest fights was to take on insurance companies to make sure life insurance benefits rightfully end up with the people and organizations they were left to.”

This gift represents a meaningful and impactful contribution to Orphans of the Storm and comes as the shelter approaches its 100th anniversary and is actively planning for the next century of compassionate animal care.

“We are deeply grateful for this generous gift and for Treasurer Frerichs’ leadership in making sure it reached us,” said Michelle Shields, volunteer president of the board of directors at Orphans of the Storm. “For nearly a century, our shelter has been part of the fabric of this community. We have connected people and animals through love, care and second chances. This support honors that legacy and helps us build toward a future where every animal has a safe place to land and a family to call their own.”

I-CASH is one of Illinois’ oldest consumer protection initiatives. The Illinois State Treasurer’s Office is tasked with safeguarding and returning unclaimed property, including the contents of overlooked safe deposit boxes, unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards. The

Illinois Treasurer is legally required to return unclaimed property to its owner or heirs, no matter how long it takes.

The record-setting \$303.8 million Treasurer Frerichs returned in missing money broke last year's mark, which was \$301 million.

"It's not just people we return money to, but businesses and organizations as well," Frerichs said. "We encourage business owners and nonprofit groups to check the I-CASH site to see if we have money waiting for them to claim."

The Enhanced Money Match Program is a key driver in this success, taking the "claim" out of unclaimed property by automatically returning money without the need to file a claim after some information is electronically verified. This summer, a record-breaking 600,000 people will receive \$45 million in money they didn't even know they had coming.

Most of the matched claims in this Enhanced Money Match round equal \$50 or less, though some people can have multiple claims and their checks will amount to much more. Frerichs' office founded the Enhanced Money Match Program in 2018 and has since returned more than \$130 million to more than 870,000 people.

All told, Frerichs has returned more than \$2.3 billion in missing money during his time in office. When Frerichs first became treasurer, there were 60,000 claims paid a year. Today, more than 300,000 claims are paid a year, owing in no small part to Frerichs' complete restructuring of the missing money process. The State Treasurer's Office added electronic claims and eliminated red tape that slowed small-money claims.

Frerichs also added a Friends and Family "share" feature. When visitors to the I-CASH website come across the name of someone they know, they can select the "share" icon and provide the email address of their friend or relative. Frerichs' office will notify the individual by sending an email that mentions the missing money along with the name of the friend or relative who spotted it. Then, that individual can start the process of retrieving their missing money.

Last year, Treasurer Frerichs unveiled a Spanish-language missing money website. The site works the same way as its English-language counterpart. People enter a name and city or ZIP code into the search box, and if there's a match, they can start filing a claim online.

When the Treasurer's Office's safe deposit boxes fill up, unclaimed items go up for auction after 10 years of private and public attempts to locate the owner or heirs.

Illinois is a national leader in the unclaimed property space and is frequently consulted by other states' leaders who are seeking to reform their unclaimed property laws, rules and procedures.

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office recommends that people check at least twice each year at icash.illinoistreasurer.gov to see if missing money is waiting for you.

Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs Returns Lost Purple Heart to Family of D-Day Survivor

Operation Purple Heart Finds 15th Family Whose Military Honors Were Missing for Years

Ahead of Independence Day, Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs returned a lost Purple Heart medal to the brother and granddaughter of a World War II veteran who earned it while fighting to liberate Europe.

Frerichs reunited Army Private John L. Moore's medal with Jerry Moore, his youngest brother, and Angie Holliger, Private Moore's granddaughter, during a ceremony at the World War II Memorial in Decatur, where Jerry lives.

It is the 15th lost medal Frerichs has returned as part of Operation Purple Heart, an unprecedented mission to return lost medals with the rightful owners. The iconic military honor is given to individuals wounded or killed during military combat.

"Private Moore defended democracy during some of the fiercest battles of WW II," Frerichs said. "It is an honor to finally return his Purple Heart to his loving family."

John Moore survived the 1944 D-Day invasion only to be wounded weeks later by shrapnel in his right wrist, left knee and lower right leg. The 20-year-old later returned to battle on the front lines, including in Rhineland. However, nerve damage diminished the use of his hand, which led to additional hospitalizations.

Private Moore returned to Illinois in 1946, going back to Peoria where he grew up. He and wife Grace had five children.

The war injuries caused Moore chronic pain, especially in his legs, according to family members. Nevertheless, he worked in the trades doing carpentry and roofing. He also spent time as a truck driver, postal worker and maintenance supervisor before retiring in 1986.

He enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing, and was very active in military organizations in Peoria Heights and East Peoria. He died at 78 in 2002 after suffering a heart attack.

"My brother was very proud of his military service, and it is very nice to have this Purple Heart back in the family," said Jerry Moore, who also served in the Army.

"I cannot believe I am holding my grandfather's Purple Heart," granddaughter Holliger said. "He was very proud of his service and it showed through all of his work with the veterans back home."

The Purple Heart was in a safe deposit box submitted to the State Treasurer's Office in 2001. The 15 Purple Heart medals Treasurer Frerichs has returned is an unparalleled record in Illinois and the nation. Information about Operation Purple Heart, including a full list of Purple Heart medals returned and awaiting return, is available at operationpurpleheart.org.

Military medals are among the most difficult items to return because neither the Armed Forces nor the federal government maintain a comprehensive list of awardees. In most of these cases, the conflict in which the Purple Heart was awarded, such as World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam or Desert Storm, is unclear or unknown.

Each of the Purple Heart medals was inside a bank safe deposit box. Each bank determined the safe deposit box abandoned because the owner(s) of the box had not touched it in several years. As a result, the contents were turned over to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office I-CASH Program.

Safeguarding unclaimed property until it can be returned to its owners or heirs – no matter how long it takes – is a core function of the State Treasurer's Office. Other examples of unclaimed property include bank accounts, unpaid life insurance benefits and uncashed rebate checks.





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***

Busse Night Ride – Saturday, Aug. 23 • 6 p.m.

Busse Lake Boating Center

(Higgins Road/Route 72, East of I-290/Hwy 53, Near Elk Grove Village)

Ride the trail at sunset, twilight or in the dark! Ticket includes live music, bonfires, refreshments and more.

Cost – Free. Contact – (773) 758-8899/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.

Registration required at <https://www.egvbikes.org/busse-woods-night-ride.html>.

Bird Walk – Sunday, Aug. 24 • 8 a.m.

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

Join us for a guided bird walk. Led by John Elliott of the Chicago Bird Alliance. Binoculars available to borrow.

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

The Buzz on Bees – Sunday, Aug. 24 • 1:30 p.m.

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

Visit our beehives and meet the beekeepers to learn about bees, pollination and honey.

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

Printmaking 101: Linocuts Workshop – Sunday, Aug. 24 • 1:30 p.m.

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

Learn the art of linocuts, cutting a design into linoleum blocks and inking prints of a plant or animal. All materials and instruction provided. All skill levels welcomed. Ages 16 and up.

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

Healing Trees & Sound Bath – Wednesday, Aug. 27 • 9:30 a.m.

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

Led by certified forest therapy guide Gayle Byck of In Tune with Nature, and Kim Eisendrath of Fascia and Function, experience the health benefits of being in nature with forest meditation and sound bathing. Ages 18 and up.

Cost – Free. Contact – (847) 824-8360 (registration required, call for information).

Night of Nature Play – Wednesday, Aug. 27 • 7 p.m.

Eggers Grove (112th Street and S Ave. E, Chicago)

Experience nature at night through open play, star gazing and s'mores. Grove 3.

Cost – Free. Contact – (224) 763-4317/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.

Landscape Needle Felting – Thursday, Aug. 28 • 1 p.m.

Saganashkee Slough Boat Launch

(107th Street, West of Willow Springs Road/104th Avenue, Near Willow Springs)

Explore the beauty of our natural landscapes using natural fibers. Supplies provided.

Cost – Free. Contact – (312) 533-5751/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov (registration required, call for information).

Be a Better Birder: Intro to Bird ID – Thursday, Aug. 28 • 6 p.m.

Virtual Event

Learn the basics of bird identification and the lingo birders use to describe birds.

Cost – Free. Contact – Jessica.becker@cookcountyil.gov (registration required, send email for information).

Nature Weaving Workshop for Seniors – Friday, Aug. 29 • 10 a.m.

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

Join local artist Phyllis Frick in exploring weaving with natural vegetation, seeds and more. Participants will create a small wall hanging. All materials provided.

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

Sit 'N' Sip: Hummingbirds-Drop-in – Saturday, Aug. 30 • 8 a.m.

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

Observe hummingbirds stocking up for their southward migration, and enjoy coffee and tea.

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

“Bone” Appétit – Saturday, Aug. 30 • 3 p.m.

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

Join us at feeding time as we feed our outdoor Ambassador Animals.

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

View Finder-Drop-in – Saturday, Aug. 30 • 10 a.m.

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

Bring a phone or camera to learn about our natural areas through an informational photography scavenger hunt.

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

Ecological Restoration Weekend – Sunday, Aug. 31 • 9:30 a.m.

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

Put your muscles to work as you help restore habitat by removing invasive plants. Tools available for loan.

Cost – Free. Contact – (630) 257-2045 (registration required, call for information).

Odonata – Sunday, Aug. 31 • 11 a.m.

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

Join us as we discover the beauty and benefits of dragonflies and damselflies dancing around our trails.

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

Migrating Monarchs Celebration – Sunday, Sept. 7 • Noon

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

Celebrate the annual monarch butterfly migration with environmental and cultural displays, activities, music and crafts.

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

Palos Night Sky Picnic – Friday, Sept. 19 • 5 p.m.

Pioneer Woods (107th Street, East of Willow Springs Road/Flavin Road, Near Willow Springs)

Join us for the 2nd Annual Palos Night Sky Picnic! Explore the Palos Preserves at night, nestled within the largest Urban Night Sky Place. Bring your picnic food, beverages and cocktails (no glass), and chairs to enjoy the evening. Live entertainment, informal exhibits, presentations and telescopes.

Rain/cloud date will be Saturday, Sept. 20.

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

Trash Bash – Saturday, Sept. 27 • 9 a.m.

Bunker Hill (Harts Road, Southwest of Touhy Avenue, Niles)

Make cleaning more sustainable! Our event partners will be collecting electronics, prescription drugs, books, musical instruments, bikes, clothing and more. The first 25 donors receive a free “Don’t be Trashy” T-shirt. Groves 1 and 2.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities at the Forest Preserves, enjoy green giveaways courtesy of the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability & MWRD, and participate in a self-led litter cleanup. Supplies will be provided.

Cook County Sheriff’s Office will be collecting unwanted/expired prescription pills, as well as recycling select electronics, including cables, cellphones/telephone devices, computers/laptops, hardware, motherboards, monitors, calculators, printers, fax machines, game systems, stereos, toasters, blenders, toner cartridges, UPS batteries, car batteries and televisions (limit one per household), offering off-site shredding.

Habitat for Humanity will be accepting tools, artwork, new/unused building materials, working small appliances, lawn/garden items and home goods.

South Suburban College/CHARM Center will be accepting glass, plastic bottles, cardboard, polystyrene, textiles and e-waste.

Working Bikes will be accepting adult bikes in repairable condition, gently used children’s bikes, bike parts, tools and bike accessories.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will also have Terracycle receptacles for the collection of the following items:

- Office Supplies – Binder clips and fasteners, binders, card filers, correction supplies, desk organizers, label backing, markers, paper cutters and paperclips.
- Batteries – dry cell batteries, including alkaline, nickel cadmium, lithium and lithium-ion, nickel metal hydride, iron, zinc carbon, silver and tire pressure monitor system (TPMS), as well as AA, AAA, C, D and 9-volt.
- Lightbulbs – Intact LEDs, straight CFL, HID and U-bend lamps (no broken bulbs).
- Plastic Bags – Nonwoven shopping bags and plastic grocery bags.

Cost – Free. Contact – (773) 631-1790/joanna.huyck@cookcountyil.gov.

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



News from the Zoo!

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

Here's a list of some incredible current and upcoming attractions.
Be sure to check out our website at www.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!

Join Us for These Exciting Featured Events!

Frontera Farm to Table Dinner

Bramsen Tropical Forests/Friday, Sept. 12 • 6 p.m.

Celebrate the flavors of our region at the 4th Annual Frontera Farm-to-Table Dinner, a truly unique culinary experience! This year, we're thrilled to welcome you for an unforgettable evening that goes beyond the plate with more than Chef Bayless and the Frontera Team, but we will also be showcasing other local celebrity chefs.

Begin your experience with a cocktail hour amidst the lush beauty of the new Bramsen Tropical Forests habitat, a vibrant backdrop for tasting delicious sips and bites. Prepare to be inspired by a captivating demonstration led by Chef Rick Bayless, showcasing his culinary artistry.

The 4th Annual Frontera Farm to Table Dinner is more than just a meal – it's an immersive event that connects you with incredible food, inspiring conservation work and the beauty of the natural world. All proceeds from this event will benefit the valuable programs of the Frontera Farmer Foundation and Brookfield Zoo Chicago.

VIP Experience

For those seeking an elevated experience, a VIP option is available, offering an exclusive encounter with Chef Rick Bayless and special perks to enhance your evening:

Custom Tequila Cocktail Upon Arrival – Guests will be greeted with a delicious craft cocktail to kick off the evening in style.

Curated Tequila Tasting and Cocktail Class by Mijenta Tequila – A Mijenta Tequila expert will guide guests through an exclusive tasting experience, featuring a signature cocktail crafted just for the occasion.

Interactive Seafood Experience – Guests will indulge in a vibrant oyster bar featuring a selection of bold, unexpected toppings, alongside a live ceviche station where fresh ingredients are prepared to order – a lively and refreshing complement to the tequila-forward welcome.

Access to Brookfield Zoo's Beautiful New Event Space – This VIP experience will take place in the Grand Vista Room inside Bramsen Tropical Forests, which overlooks the Gorilla Day Room and Tropical Trail.

Premium Swag Bags – Guests will leave with a thoughtfully assembled swag bag, including limited-edition Brookfield Zoo-branded items.

VIP Dinner Seating with Premier Access – Our honored guests will enjoy preferred seating at dinner, positioned closest to the action (where world-class chefs will present, share, and celebrate their dishes).

Tickets are limited, so buy yours today! Visit <https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/fronterafarmtotabledinner> for details.



Animal Adoption Adventure

Zoowide/Saturday, Sept. 20 • 6 p.m.

We can't wait for you to join us for an evening of fun at Brookfield Zoo Chicago! Our Animal Adoption Adventure features:

- Animal viewing throughout the zoo.
- Zoo Chats.
- A discount in gift shops and restaurants.
- Attractions throughout the zoo.
- The opportunity to be the first to adopt some of the new animals up for adoption!

For questions, please call (708) 688-8341 or email sharethecare@brookfieldzoo.org.



BOO! At the Zoo

Zoowide/Oct. 4-31 • 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Weekdays/6 p.m., Weekends

Get ready for a fang-tastic time at BOO! at the Zoo, Brookfield Zoo Chicago's family-friendly Halloween celebration. This event is packed with not-so-scary thrills, festive decorations and plenty of fun for all ages.

On weekends, enjoy trick-or-treating, a magician and other exciting activities to make your visit even more memorable. Wander through the zoo's festive paths, participate in Halloween-themed experiences and see your favorite animals in a whole new light.

It's the perfect way to celebrate Halloween with the whole family – don't miss the frightful fun! More details on activities will be coming soon.

Please note, all activities are weather-dependent and schedule/programming is subject to change.

Zoo After Dark: Boos & Brews

East Mall/Saturday, Oct. 25 • 6-9:30 p.m.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of thrills, chills and specialty drinks at Zoo After Dark: BOOs & Brews, Brookfield Zoo Chicago's exclusive Halloween event for adults! This 21+ evening features a lively costume contest with fabulous prizes, a high-energy DJ dance party and up-close encounters with animal ambassadors.

Experience the zoo after hours, sip on seasonal brews and cocktails, and immerse yourself in a creepy-crawly adventure like no other. Whether you're here for the brews, the boos or the beats, this hauntingly good time is the perfect way to celebrate the Halloween season.

Save the date to join us for an unforgettable night under the stars! For tickets and updates, visit www.brookfieldzoo.org/BoosAndBrews.



Tree Trim: Decorate a Tree

Zoowide/Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8-9

Celebrate the season with Tree Trim at Brookfield Zoo Chicago, the perfect way to kick off the holidays! Purchase a tree to decorate and help bring the magic of the holidays to life as part of the beloved Holiday Magic Lights Festival. Schools, Girl Scout troops, families and community groups can create lasting memories with community trees, while businesses can showcase their festive spirit with corporate trees.

Each tree purchase comes with 20 free zoo tickets, valued at over \$600, making it a fun and meaningful way to celebrate the holidays while supporting Brookfield Zoo Chicago. Gather your group, get creative and be part of the dazzling holiday tradition that lights up Chicagoland!

Save the date for Tree Trim and make this holiday season unforgettable. Trees will go on sale in September 2025.



Reindeer Run

Zoowide/Saturday, Nov. 15 • 5:30-9 p.m.

Get ready to dash through the zoo this holiday season with our annual Reindeer Run! Whether you're running or walking, this family-friendly event is the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit. Be the first to experience the lights of Holiday Magic as you enjoy scenic views of the zoo and the chance to see some animals along the way. Don't forget your reindeer ears and holiday cheer – this run is sure to be a jolly good time for all! For updates and additional details, visit www.brookfieldzoo.org/ReindeerRun!



Zoo After Dark: Holiday Sip & Stroll

East, North and South Malls/Thursday, Nov. 20 • 5:30-9 p.m.

Be among the first to experience the enchantment of Holiday Magic at Brookfield Zoo Chicago with our exclusive Zoo After Dark: Holiday Sip & Stroll event. This 21+ evening offers a festive mix of holiday cheer, warm drinks, and seasonal cocktails as you explore the zoo's dazzling holiday lights before the main event opens to the public. Dance the night away to live beats at the DJ dance party, sip on exclusive drinks crafted just for the evening, and soak in the magic of the season in an adults-only atmosphere. Gather your friends for a one-of-a-kind holiday celebration filled with lights, music and memories to last a lifetime. For tickets and updates, <https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/HolidaySipAndStroll>.



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

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No One Should Live in Fear

Aging Care Connections now serves as the **Adult Protective Services (APS)** resource for residents of Proviso Township (age 60+) and individuals with disabilities (18-59) for investigating suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Types of Abuse include:

Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse
Confinement	Passive Neglect	Willful Deprivation
Financial Exploitation	Abandonment	Self-Neglect

Report Abuse Today

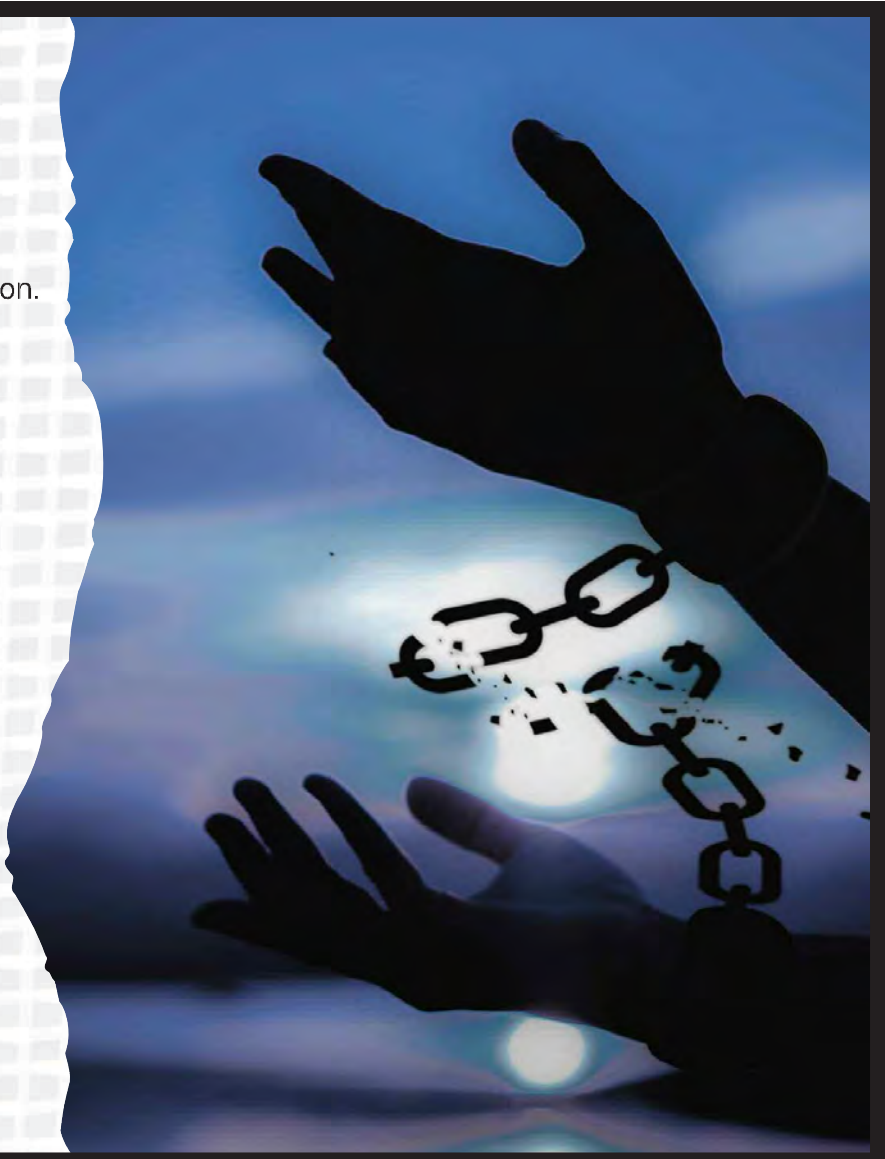
- 24-Hour Hotline: 1-866-800-1409
- Local: 708-354-1323 (M-F, 8:30am-4:30pm)

ACT NOW - CHANGE A LIFE TODAY



111 W. Harris Ave.
La Grange, Illinois 60525

For more information, visit
www.agingcareconnections.org or
call 708-354-1323.



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

ComEd Opens Applications for Customer Relief Fund, \$10 Million in Bill Relief Now Available

One-time Grants of Up to \$500 are Available for Income-Eligible Customers and Up to \$1,000 for Nonprofit Organizations While Funds Last

ComEd has encouraged customers to begin applying to the Customer Relief Fund, which offers one-time grants of up to \$500 for qualifying low- to moderate-income residential customers and \$1,000 for nonprofit organizations to help those struggling with rising energy costs in Northern Illinois. Supported by Exelon, ComEd's parent company, the Customer Relief Fund has allocated \$10 million in bill assistance grants, provided on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible customers, while funds last.

To administer the funds, ComEd is partnering with trusted community organizations, Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago and The Salvation Army (TSA), the latter of which hosted the announcement at its Red Shield Office in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. To apply, qualifying customers can find online applications through either organization at ComEd.com/Relief or through one of the following partner organizations, both of which will have a list of locations for customers to submit applications in person:



- The Salvation Army – (312) 667-2010/Visit salarmy.us/ComEd to see locations accepting in-person applications.
- Neighborhood Housing Services – (888) 688-5438/Visit nhschicago.org/customer-relief-fund for a list of locations accepting in-person applications.

"As energy costs rise from summer heat and increasing capacity charges, we understand the financial strain this can place on families and community organizations," said Melissa Washington, senior vice president of Customer Operations and Strategic Initiatives at ComEd. "That's why ComEd is working with community partners to deliver the Customer Relief Fund, reflecting our ongoing commitment to providing affordable energy and supporting customers during trying times. These grants do not need to be paid back and they are designed to provide immediate relief to those who need it most."

To be eligible for this bill assistance offer, residential customers must currently have past due electric bills and be at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. For a family of four, that is equal to an annual household income of \$96,450.

Nonprofit customers must provide documentation of active 501(c)(3) status to apply. For residential customers who received LIHEAP assistance within the last 18 months, no documentation is required during the application. Residential customers who have not received prior assistance must provide documentation to confirm their income level.

"The Salvation Army believes that every family— throughout the city of Chicago or across Northern Illinois – should be able to live in a home where basic necessities, such as electricity, do not create undue financial hardship," said Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich, divisional commander of The Salvation Army North and Central Illinois Division. "The Customer Relief Fund is a timely and critical resource for households facing financial hardship, and we are proud to partner with ComEd to help provide immediate support while working together toward long-term, sustainable solutions that foster dignity and stability for those we serve across northern Illinois."

After applying, TSA and NHS will notify customers that their application has been approved or denied and the grant will appear on the customer's electric bill within one to two billing cycles.

"The recent dangerous heat wave reminded us how critical reliable electricity and air conditioning are – especially for our elders and the most vulnerable in our communities," said Anthony E. Simpkins, president and CEO of Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago. "With many more hot days ahead this summer, the need for support is only growing. That's why NHS Chicago is proud to partner with the Salvation Army and ComEd to help deliver financial assistance to those in need. We're committed to strengthening neighborhoods and supporting families and this partnership is another way we can keep our communities safe, healthy and connected."

The Customer Relief Fund also aims to serve as a financial-support bridge from the end of LIHEAP's funding season late this summer to the launch of ComEd's forthcoming Low-Income Discount Program in January 2026. The fund complements ComEd's existing menu of bill assistance and energy management options, which last year alone connected more than 229,000 customers to \$133 million in various bill-assistance options.

ComEd Appoints Melissa Washington as SVP of Governmental, Regulatory and External Affairs

Organizational Changes to Position ComEd for Success Amid the Clean Energy Transition

ComEd recently announced Melissa Y. Washington, with more than two decades of experience in the industry and at Exelon, will be appointed to the role of senior vice president of Governmental, Regulatory and External Affairs (GREA) effective Sept. 1, 2025. This key appointment will position ComEd to continue advancing work alongside key stakeholders, and to advocate for policies that will benefit Northern Illinois customers and communities in the clean energy transition.

In this role, Washington will set the company's policy, legislative and regulatory strategies. She will also oversee the company's economic and workforce development functions, as well as corporate community impact and charitable giving for ComEd.

"Melissa Washington is a highly-respected and transformational leader with a track record for driving innovation in our customer operations while advancing critical stakeholder and policy work – always keeping the people, businesses and communities we serve front of mind," said ComEd President and CEO Gil Quinones. "With our industry facing dramatic changes and customer demands evolving rapidly, I am confident that Melissa's deep industry experience and strong relationships make her the right person to advance the important work we must do to continue supporting the clean energy transition in our region."

Washington first joined Exelon in 2003, with executive-level roles held in investor relations, corporate affairs, governmental affairs, regulatory, large customer, and workforce and economic development. Washington joined ComEd in 2016 and currently serves as senior vice president of Customer

Operations and Strategic Initiatives, where she has led the company in reshaping its customer experience, creating new customer tools to provide energy billing relief and to boost customer participation in clean energy technology and energy management solutions, including growing the impact of ComEd's industry-leading energy efficiency programs.

Washington is active in service to her community, serving in leadership roles with several local boards, including the Metropolitan Planning Council, the Civic Consulting Alliance, the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center board, and the Leadership Greater Chicago board. She is also a member of several professional groups, including serving as board secretary of Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA), a member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) and the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies (AEIC). She earned her bachelor's degree in finance from Lewis University and her MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management.

"This is an exciting time to join the GREA team as we continue to bring clean energy solutions to communities in Northern Illinois," said Washington. "I look forward to the opportunity to meet with our stakeholders to better understand the needs of their constituents as we advance plans for a clean and reliable energy grid."

Washington, who has served in a leadership capacity in various roles with ComEd since 2003, steps into the SVP of GREA role most recently held by Louie Binswanger, who will transition to serving as senior advisor to the CEO before retiring at the end of the year.

"I want to thank Louie Binswanger for his leadership and many contributions, most notably his work leading the team to achieve regulatory approvals that will help the grid prepare to deliver safe, reliable and clean power for years to come while keeping customer bills as low as possible," said Quiniones.

Binswanger, who joined ComEd in 2022, is credited with leading policy and regulatory strategies to secure approval ComEd's first ever Multi-Year Grid plan, which received regulatory approvals from the ICC in 2024, and setting the stage for key investments through 2027 that will uphold reliability and resiliency in the face of more severe weather and adapt to meet clean energy goals. The plan aligns with the state's Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), a 2021 law which seeks to expand renewable energy access, decarbonize communities and boost the clean energy workforce. Binswanger will stay on in an advisory role to the CEO through the end of the year.

ComEd, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Open Applications for Fifth Annual Powering the Holidays Grant Program

Northern Illinois Communities Encouraged to Apply for Grants of Up to \$2,500 to Support Holiday Light Displays

As the summer sun heats up Northern Illinois communities, ComEd and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus are already preparing for the sparkle of winter holidays, welcoming communities to apply for the fifth annual Powering the Holidays Grant Program. Applications are open now through Aug. 29.

A total of \$60,000 is available this year to launch and enrich local holiday events by funding light displays and festive decorations. In total, the ComEd Powering the Holidays Program has awarded nearly \$170,000 to 70 unique holiday projects that celebrate diverse cultures and traditions while fostering a sense of togetherness in our communities. For more information, including the application and qualifying components, visit the ComEd Powering the Holidays Program website.

"ComEd is proud to again collaborate with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to brighten communities through our Powering the Holidays Program," said Melissa Washington, senior vice president of Customer Operations and Strategic Initiatives at ComEd. "By helping communities celebrate their cultures and traditions, we're fostering connection, inclusion and joy across Northern Illinois."

Municipalities, townships, counties and local government units within the ComEd service territory are eligible to apply, as well as nonprofit organizations that are partnered with at least one municipality or government institution. Grant recipients must match at least 20% of the funds received to support a holiday event held Nov. 1, 2025-Feb. 13, 2026. Applications will be reviewed by an external panel of judges, with final awardees expected to be announced in October.

"The ComEd Powering the Holidays Program supports Illinois communities by expanding current holiday celebrations and establishing new traditions that foster unity and inclusivity," said Neil James, executive director of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. "On behalf of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, we are grateful to partner with ComEd to offer this wonderful grant opportunity to communities."

Last year, the Powering the Holidays Program distributed nearly \$60,000 across 24 holiday projects in different communities throughout Northern Illinois. In the village of Westchester, a Powering the Holidays Grant helped enrich their Winter Wonderland Walk event. This annual event turns a local park into an interactive nighttime wonderland, featuring expanded light displays, a live DJ spinning holiday favorites, and seasonal treats for families and individuals after a stroll through an illuminated forest.

"Even in chilly December, our community stayed warm under the immense glow of thousands of incredible holiday lights – made possible thanks to the support of ComEd's Powering the Holidays Grant," said Greg Hribal, village president, Westchester, Illinois. "In partnership with the Westchester Park District, we transformed our local park into a festive winter wonderland where neighbors shared joy, hot chocolate and great memories. It was a true collaboration that lit up more than just the trees – it brought our whole community together."

For the city of Yorkville, their annual Tour of Lights celebration was enhanced through a Powering the Holidays Grant that helped expand light displays and festive performances throughout the entire city, creating more free opportunities for residents to enjoy and connect. The additional lights received through the Powering the Holidays Program will be reused for years to come, turning numerous locations in Yorkville into hubs of festivity from November through the New Year.

"The united city of Yorkville is honored to be one of the few municipalities to receive the Powering the Holidays Grant from ComEd through the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus in 2024," said United City of Yorkville Mayor John Purcell. "This generous support allowed us to bring exciting enhancements and additions, including the inaugural and highly successful Deck the Trees Holiday Walk to the 2024 holiday season. This support created cherished memories and new traditions for families and friends within the Yorkville community."

Powering the Holidays is a gleaming example of ComEd's dedication to supporting holiday light events, complementing annual sponsorship of seasonal events at Lincoln Park Zoo, Brookfield Zoo Chicago, The Morton Arboretum and Chicago Botanic Garden.

For more information about Powering the Holidays, visit the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus website.

Loyola University Medical Center Names New President

Loyola University Medical Center has appointed Elizabeth E. Early, MHA, FACHE, as president of Loyola University Medical Center.

Since 2021, Early has served as president of Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, where she has demonstrated her capabilities and commitment to advancing the health of our communities, and improving the colleague and patient experience. She has a proven record of expense and productivity management, strategic planning and business development, and quality improvement. Under her leadership, Gottlieb saw an increase in surgical case volume, a reduction in falls and readmissions, and Gottlieb's Skilled Nursing Unit was named to *U.S. News & World Report's* list of Best Nursing Homes in Illinois for three consecutive years.

Early joined Loyola Medicine in 2019 as the regional vice president of professional and support services, managing operations for facilities, environmental services, food and nutrition, transportation and security. She has retained regional responsibility for laboratory and imaging services for Loyola's hospitals and outpatient centers. She has also held leadership positions at Presence Health (now Ascension Health), UChicago Medicine and Northwestern Medicine. Early's dedication to health care is further reflected in her recognition as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Ohio University and a Master of Health Administration from Ohio State University.



www.loyolamedicine.org

Early's 25 years of leadership experience managing a diverse portfolio of inpatient and ambulatory departments within complex academic medical centers, community hospitals and large integrated health care systems will be invaluable as she guides Loyola University Medical Center forward.

"I am confident that under her leadership, Loyola University Medical Center will continue to excel in providing outstanding care that benefits our patients, colleagues and the communities we serve," said Shawn P. Vincent, president and CEO of Loyola Medicine. "She will play a pivotal role in shaping our clinical programs and ensuring that LUMC is equipped to serve our communities for generations to come."

Two Loyola Hospitals Named to Becker's Hospital Review's List of 100 Great Community Hospitals

Loyola Medicine's Gottlieb Memorial Hospital and MacNeal Hospital have been named to Becker's Hospital Review's 2025 list of 100 great community hospitals.

The list recognizes community hospitals that deliver expert care, strengthen local economies and drive innovation. Becker's Healthcare developed this list based on nominations and editorial research.

"We are truly honored that two of our hospitals have earned this national recognition," said Shawn P. Vincent, president and CEO of Loyola Medicine. "This achievement is a testament to the unwavering dedication and compassion of our hospital staff, who work tirelessly to deliver exceptional care to the communities we proudly serve."

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital was recognized for its commitment to high-quality, patient-centered care. In 2025, its Hip and Knee Replacement Program was named a "Blue Distinction Center+" by Blue Cross Blue Shield. Gottlieb's Skilled Nursing Facility was named one of the Best Nursing Homes in the country by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2024, a testament to its exceptional care quality, staffing and safety standards. With new clinical leadership, the hospital continues to advance innovation, safety and community health initiatives in the Chicagoland area.

MacNeal Hospital was recognized for more than a century of clinical excellence, innovation and community leadership. The hospital earned Magnet with Distinction status in 2024, one of only 41 hospitals in the nation to receive this designation. The hospital is also a recognized "Blue Distinction Center+" for maternal medicine and collaborates with Housing Forward to operate Sojourner House, the first medical respite program in suburban Cook County. With a focus on equity and population health, the hospital continues to address social determinants of health and deliver high-quality, compassionate care.

American Heart Association Recognizes Two Loyola Hospitals for Advanced Care for Stroke and Type 2 Diabetes

Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC) and Loyola Medicine's MacNeal Hospital have earned the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award for their commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately leading to more lives saved and reduced disability. The AHA also named LUMC and MacNeal to its Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll and LUMC to its Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite.

The Stroke Gold Plus Award recognizes hospitals for adherence to the AHA's in-hospital program for improving stroke care, based on the latest scientific treatment guidelines. The Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll distinction honors hospitals engaging in advanced care for patients with stroke and/or type 2 diabetes. LUMC earned the Target: Stroke Elite Honor Roll award by meeting specific criteria that reduce the time between an eligible patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment to remove the clot causing the stroke.

"Loyola Medicine is honored to have two of our hospitals recognized for their unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional care to patients facing heart failure, stroke and type 2 diabetes," said Shawn P. Vincent, president and CEO of Loyola Medicine. "This recognition reflects the dedication of our entire team to providing timely, evidence-based treatment that improves outcomes and helps minimize the long-term effects of serious conditions like stroke."

Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel carrying oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked or bursts. Without timely intervention, stroke patients suffer brain damage. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability and accelerating recovery times.

"We are incredibly pleased to recognize LUMC and MacNeal for their commitment to caring for patients with stroke," said Steven Messe, MD, volunteer chairperson of the American Heart Association Stroke System of Care Advisory Group and professor of neurology and director of fellowships of neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. "Participation in Get With The Guidelines is associated with improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates – a win for health care systems, families and communities."

Nicor Gas Opens Applications for Basic Needs, Education and Workforce Development Grants to Support Nonprofit Organizations

Nicor Gas recently opened two grant applications under the pillars of basic needs and education and workforce development grants. Applications are available at www.NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving through Aug. 31, with funding decisions by the end of October. Selected nonprofits and community organizations will be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in grant funds this year.

Basic Needs

The Basic Needs pillar is focused on services where there is a critical or acute need to solve problems immediately. Organizations funded under this pillar include those that provide food, shelter, clothing and disaster relief. Nicor Gas supports a broad range of programs that promote access to basic needs, including but not limited to food banks, food pantries and food distribution programs; transitional and emergency shelter programs; access to essential needs, such as clothing, hygiene and other supplies; and disaster relief programs.

Education and Workforce Development

The Education and Workforce Development pillar primarily supports secondary and post-secondary educational opportunities as well as technical/vocational programs. We value partnerships that align with our workforce development initiatives, improving awareness of careers in energy and helping to develop a qualified workforce. Nicor Gas supports a broad range of education-related programs, including but not limited to skill building and job training programs; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs and initiatives; access to post-secondary education opportunities; and mentoring and tutoring programs

Last year, the company provided grant support to over 40 organizations including:



Basic Needs

- **Connections for the Homeless** – Provides homelessness prevention services, emergency shelter services, short- and long-term housing services and advocacy services for people facing homelessness./
- **Coal City Food Pantry** – Provides food, including dry goods, dairy and fresh meat to support families experiencing food insecurity in the Coal City area./
- **Outreach House** – Provides access to basic needs, including food, diapers and clothing for all ages.

Education and Workforce Development

- **Boys and Girls Club of Livingston County** – Provides a comprehensive STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and math) program to promote interest in and awareness of STEAM for youth in all grade levels.
- **Career and Networking Center** – Provides services aimed at enhancing economic stability, including career development workshops, job placement services, skill enhancement programs and individual career counseling.
- **Literacy DuPage** – Supports a program to aid English language learners to acquire English listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Please contact our charitable giving team at nicorgascontributions@aglresources.com if you have any questions about the appropriate pillar for your organization and program.

To learn more about Nicor Gas' commitment to its communities, visit www.NicorGas.com/Community.

Nicor Gas' Community Impact Report Highlights \$5.7M Donations Made to 348 Illinois Nonprofits

Nicor Gas' 2024 Community Impact Report details the company's \$5.7 million in contributions to support community welfare and development through charitable giving and volunteerism. The company concentrates its efforts on three strategic areas: supporting basic needs, protecting the environment and enabling economic opportunity.

"As we release the 2024 Community Impact Report, Nicor Gas continues to demonstrate our commitment to making a positive difference in the communities we serve. This report highlights our initiatives and partnerships that drive sustainable growth, enhance local well-being and support environmental stewardship," said Wendell Dallas, president and CEO of Nicor Gas. "We are proud to work alongside our community partners to create lasting impacts and fuel a more prosperous future for all."

In 2021, Nicor Gas set three strategic objectives to direct its corporate responsibility initiatives. The annual Community Impact Report outlines the company's advancements in achieving these goals.

Support Basic Needs – Recognizing the importance of access to clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy as a fundamental necessity, Nicor Gas seeks to extend this commitment by addressing other essential needs of its customers. Through partnerships with nonprofit organizations, such as Greater Chicago Food Depository and Housing Forward, the company has facilitated the delivery of 7.8 million meals and 411,000 nights of shelter.

Protect the Environment – Nicor Gas is committed to environmental stewardship and has a goal to sustain 10,000 acres of open space in Northern Illinois. Support to organizations like Brookfield Zoo and Field Museum of Natural History helps offer equitable access to cultural, educational and recreational places.

Enable Economic Opportunity – Central to Nicor Gas' mission is the ambition to invigorate Illinois' economy. The company has formed strategic partnerships with organizations like Chicago United and continuously invests in underserved communities through the Nicor Illinois Community Investment. These efforts aim to unlock equitable economic opportunities, promote entrepreneurship and stimulate economic growth.

Visit nicorgas.com/2024impact to read the 2024 Community Impact Report and nonprofit organization highlights.

Obituaries

Bahena

Anastasio Solano Bahena, Jan. 22, 1932-Aug. 10, 2025, passed away at the age of 93 in Arlington Heights, Illinois. A man of elegant dress with an infectious smile, a lover of classical music, and homemade and seafood cuisine, he enjoyed the bohemian atmosphere and spent much of his time loving his loved ones and cultivating lasting friendships. His children – Joseph Solano Peñaloza, Alberto Flores Gómez, Alejandro Gómez Flores, Jelen Solano Peñaloza, Agustin Solano Peñaloza and Hoguer Solano Gómez, pay tribute to his legacy and immeasurable displays of affection. His wife María Yolanda Gómez, his life partner for more than 50 years, is grateful for the presence of such a wonderful person in her life and for all the support, love and dedication he showed her. His memory will live on through the countless lives he touched and his legacy of love will continue to inspire us all. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Bartucci

Joseph Bartucci, Sept. 30, 1946-July 31, 2025. Dearly beloved husband of Laura (nee Richards); loving father of Jennifer (Nathan) McDougall and Amanda (Zach) Seibel; beloved son of the late Joseph and Helen Bartucci; cherished papa of Payton and Presley McDougall, and Lily, Reese and Joseph David Seibel; dear brother of Marilyn (the late Hans) Kornau, Phyllis (Wayne) Conforti and the late Patricia (John) Scimone; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Cabrera

Vicente Cabrera, Jan. 8, 1937-July 28, 2025. Beloved Husband of Rosa Cabrera (nee Vasquez). Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Funeral services private.

Caesar

Patricia Caesar, Jan. 29, 1936-July 10, 2025. Dearly beloved wife of the late Lawrence Caesar; loving mother of Pamela (Michael) Marquardt, Steven (Donna) Caesar, Susan (George) Johnson, Lisa (Scot Aldinger) Cochiaro, the late Linda Caesar, Laurie Caesar and Leanne Hovey; cherished grandmother of 19; great-grandmother of 21; dear sister of the late Rhea, Belle and Gordon; cherished aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. "She will be missed by all."

Coronado

John Coronado, Nov. 20, 1930-July 25, 2025, age 94, of Maywood, passed away peacefully on July 25, 2025. Dearly beloved husband of the late Mary Coronado; beloved father of Sally (Robert) and Susan; cherished grandfather of Micaela, Nicholas, Alexandra, Sarah, Salina, Edward and Scarlett; loving great-grandfather of the late Daniella, Eliana, Nikolai and Dominic. Proud U.S. Army Korean War veteran (Artillery Division); lifelong Chicago Cubs fan, devoted to faith and family; preceded in death by parents Teresa and Jesus Coronado, and siblings Lupe, Mary, Margaret, Alex, Phil, Theresa and Rita; survived by siblings David (Arlene “Sunny”), Magdalen (William) and Anita (Lawrence). Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Delgado

Juan Carlos Jaramillo Delgado, June 4, 1986-July 8, 2025. Loving father, son, husband, grandpa, grandson, brother, uncle and friend of many; Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Forest Home Cemetery.

DeToni

Angela DeToni, Feb. 10, 1955-July 19, 2025. In loving memory of Angela DeToni, nee Spennacchio. Angela DeToni passed away peacefully on

Saturday, July 19, 2025, surrounded by family. She was the dearly beloved wife of the late Mark DeToni and the devoted mother of Giavanna (Sonny) Hughes and Mark Anthony (Payal Patel) DeToni. She was the cherished grandmother of Mark Anthony III and Giuliana. Angela was the beloved daughter of the late Pat and Sara Spennacchio, and the dear sister of Patti Leissring and Mauro Spennacchio. She was a loving aunt to Angela, Nicholas and Michelle Salemi, Tawni DeToni, and Kevin and Patrick Leissring. She will be remembered fondly by many extended family members and friends. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Garay

Juan Pablo Garay, Feb. 8, 1975-July 18, 2025. Loving father of Gianna Garay, Gizzel Garay, Givanni Garay and Giankarlo Garay; beloved son of Samuel and Maria Providencia; dear brother of Veronica, Rosalba, Marcial, and Leslie; cherished uncle of Michael, Juan Carlos, Jason, Lorraine, Stephanie, Shayla, Rafael Jr., Nathan, Esmaralda, Laura, Abigail and Efrain; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment All Saints Cemetery.

Kilgore

Noah Kilgore, Aug. 5, 2025-August 5, 2025. Our little angel was called to the Lord on Aug. 5, 2025. Although his earthly adventure was short, he brought immense joy and happiness to the entire family; he will be loved and forever missed by his parents – Sklyer Kilgore and Lina Kilgore (nee Claudio); always remembered by his brother – Skyler Jay Kilgore Jr.; cherished endlessly by his grandparents – Gilbert Claudio, Gina Saletta and Paul and Laura Kilgore; adored by his aunts and uncles – Kayla Kilgore, Gil Claudio, Joseph Claudio, Nicolette and Michael Moretti; and never forgotten by his great-grandparents – Micki and Steve Sodergren, and Carmen Claudio; loving cousin of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven.

Lesus

Roxanne Charlotte Lesus, nee Allen, March 7, 1954-Jan. 25, 2025. Roxanne was born in Fennville, Michigan, and currently lived in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. She lived most of her life in Melrose Park, Illinois, but has also lived in Maywood, Bellwood and Berkeley, Illinois. Roxanne has also resided in Coral Springs and Boca Raton, Florida, and Edgerton, Wisconsin. Roxanne met her future husband when she was a freshman in high school and he was a junior at the Melrose Park Library. They went to different high schools, but rode the same municipal bus. Roxanne and Bill married on Oct. 26, 1974, and recently celebrated 50 years of loving marriage. Roxanne was the loving mother of sons Jason (Melina) and Timothy (Siobhan). She was the daughter of the late Clarence and the late Edith Allen. She was the sister of the late Russell Knutson (the late Juanita), the late Donald Allen (the late Ellen), Stephen Allen (Beverly), the late Fern Allen and the late Terrence Allen. She loved her many nieces, nephews and cousins. Roxanne was especially close with niece Laura Mangold, Kelly Truckenbrod, Steven Allen, the late Kristine Markowski, Tracy Hartz and goddaughter Marlene Arredondo. Roxanne had many good friends and loved her pet Cavapoo, Maysi. She met many new and good friends through the Carolina Forest Girl Friends group. Roxanne worked for the Township of Proviso where she was the long-time deputy tax assessor. Arrangements by Myrtle Beach Funeral Home, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Ludlow

Barbara Ann Ludlow, April 21, 1971-Aug. 12, 2025. Dearly beloved wife of the late John Krizanic; beloved daughter of Barbara Torres; dear sister of Florence Perez; cherished aunt of Anthony and Cassandra Perez. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private

Marzullo

Kathlyn Marzullo, Nov. 25, 1937-Aug. 6, 2025, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family. Loving mom to David (Nora), Gina (Rocco) and Mary; silly grammy to Anna, Nikko, John, Mia (Ryan), Gianna, Isabella (Michael) and Rocky (Abbey); great-grandma to Gia and Zoe. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment St. Michael Cemetery.

Mungo

Elizabeth M. Mungo, nee Moccio, Sept. 5, 1926-July 18, 2025, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family on Friday, July 18, 2025 at the golden age of 98. Beloved wife of the late Frank A. Mungo, Sr.; devoted mother of John Mungo, Catherine (the late Francis) Donovan, Raymond "Skip" Mungo, the late Robert Mungo, Mary Ann Mungo and Frank, Jr. (Kathleen) Mungo; loving daughter of the late Frank and the late Fortunata Moccio; fond grandmother of Michelle (Alex) Shoaiei, Nicole (Josh) Santel, Terah (Clay Scott) Donovan, Francis (Luisa) Donovan, Patrick Donovan, John Paul (Carla) Mungo, Allison Mungo, Carolyn (John) Ekkert, Lauren (Paul) Mungo-Loban, Elizabeth (Cameron) Valentine, Christen (Giovanni) Cusimano, John Navarro, Francesca Navarro, Ava Mungo and Frank T. Mungo; fond great-grandmother of Tommy, Johnny, Giada, Vito, Ryder, Leo, Troy, Anthony, Adalie, Peyton, Riley and Gionni; loving sister of the late Raymond Moccio, the late Frank (the late Dorothy) Moccio, the late James Moccio and the late Elizabeth; dear aunt and great-aunt of many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Russo's Hillside Chapels. Interment at Mt. Carmel Catholic Cemetery.

Novelli

Elizabeth "Betty" Novelli, June 8, 1934-July 23, 2025. Dearly beloved wife of Frank Novelli; loving mother of Tony (the late Alisa), Anny (the late Michael) Giuffre, Tina (Greg) Soulides, the late Frank R. (Lisa), Lisa (Ron) Spata and Gina (Tony) Caponi; cherished grandmother of Frank (Alexis), Giana (Dave) Sitz, Anthony (Carrie), Alyse (Michael) Jezierski, Jenna and Michael Giuffre, Elizabeth and George Soulides, Frank (Lisa), Nick (Sara)

and Mia (Anthony) DeSanto; great-grandmother of Frank and Dominic; Luca and Nick Bruscato; Anthony, James and Tyler; Rena, Michael, Alea, and Alana Jezierski; Serafina; Giada and Johnny DeSanto; loving sister, aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Ortiz

Emma Yolanda Ortiz, May 20, 1949-June 26, 2025. Beloved wife of the late Isaac Ibarra Nevarez; loving mother of Raymunda Ibarra Nunez, Sergio Ibarra, Efrain Ibarra and Luis Alberto Ibarra; beloved daughter of the late Pedro and Liboria; cherished grandmother of Sergio Ibarra Jr., Angelo Y. Ibarra, Aiden A. Ibarra, Sebastian J. Ibarra, Isaac Beltran Ybarra, Marisol G. Beltran Ybarra, Maritza G. Beltran Ybarra, Isaac A Ibarra and Luis A. Ibarra; dear sister of Lourdes Martinez Barraza and Rosa Aide Ortiz; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Palermo

Giosina Palermo, Oct. 30, 1925-July 18, 2025. Beloved wife of the late Mario Palermo; loving mother of Eugenia (Silvio) Lio, Francesca (the late Vince) Frassinone and the late Francesco (Victoria); cherished grandmother of Gabriele, Marcello, Silvia, Tony, Mike, Marie, Mario and Frank; cherished great-grandmother of 18; cherished great-great-grandmother of five; dear sister of Alfredo and the late Salvatore, Carmen, Giuseppe, Irene, Gigina, Amelia and Frank; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Mausoleum.

Sannicandro

Theresa Sannicandro, March 2, 1927-July 27, 2025. Beloved daughter of the late Antonio and Marie; dear sister of the late Madeline and Rocco Cordaro, Rocky CPD and Janet Sannicandro; cherished aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private

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