

A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

*The Taste of Melrose Park was Amazing ...
Thank You to Our Food Vendors, Generous Sponsors, and Peggy DiFazio
and the Dedicated Team of Volunteers for Going Above and Beyond!*

Dear Neighbors,

This year, the Taste of Melrose Park experienced some of the best weather the Taste has enjoyed in many years. The great weather brought out some of our largest crowds ever to enjoy delicious food items from over 70 vendors, great music on our two stages and a fireworks extravaganza on the final night. I want to thank our food vendors for keeping their prices affordable in the face of rising food costs. Next, I would like to thank our many sponsors, whose financial commitment makes the Taste of Melrose Park a reality. Last, but not least, my most sincere appreciation goes out to Peggy DiFazio and her team of volunteers, whose dedicated work behind the scenes ensures the Taste runs smoothly.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours on Oct. 31 will run from 3-7 p.m. Parents, remind your children that cars don't stop for costumes, always cross at corners, use crosswalks and make eye contact with drivers before stepping into the street. Remind kids to look both ways, even if they're in a hurry to get to that house handing out the full-size Snickers bars. Drivers should slowdown in neighborhoods, as trick-or-treaters may dart across the road unexpectedly.

Winter weather is only a few weeks away. Melrose Park senior citizens and homeowners with a disability can prepare for winter by signing up for Melrose Park's free Snow Removal Program. Visit the village of Melrose Park website at www.melrosepark.org to download a Snow Removal Application Form. For more information, please call (708) 649-4450.



*Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor*

We have also posted on our website at www.melrosepark.org the following items to help you get a head start on 2026 home improvement projects.

- 1. 2026 Free Residential Painting Program** for individuals 65 years of age and older who reside and own a single-family home in Melrose Park. Those who qualify and need minor paint work around their house, such as fences, garage doors, railings, etc., can download an application form from the website to be placed on a list.
- 2. 2026 Sidewalk Replacement Program**, where you can request the replacement of sidewalk squares. For more information, please get in touch with the Melrose Park Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128.
- 3. 2026 Melrose Park Tree Planting Program** for those interested in a tree for the parkway (one tree per household). We are compiling a list for our 2026 Tree Planting Program. To request a tree, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128.

The flu season has begun and runs through April. Besides local clinics and hospitals you can get flu shots at one of the following Melrose Park retail locations:

- Costco Pharmacy – 8400 W. North Ave., Melrose Park.
- CVS Pharmacy in Target – 850 W. North Ave., Melrose Park.
- Walgreens Pharmacy – 1445 W. North Ave., Melrose Park.
- Westlake Urgent Care – 1419 W. Lake St., Melrose Park.

Remember to set your clocks back one hour on Nov. 2 and enjoy the extra hour of sleep you get that day.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ron Serpico

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



Follow us on Facebook.



Follow us on Instagram.



Village of Melrose Park

Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor

Mary Ann Paolantonio, Village Clerk

Trustees

Anthony N. Abruzzo • Jaime Anguiano

Arturo J. Mota • Sonny Nicotera

Mary Ramirez Taconi • Anthony "Tony" Williams



To Know

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

Hours – Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

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

Water, Tickets, Etc.

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

Police Emergency911

Non-Emergency(708) 344-8409

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

Fire Emergency911

Non-Emergency(708) 344-1210

Public Safety/Homeland Security(708) 649-8000

Library(708) 343-3391

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

Building and Code(708) 343-4000

Civic Center(708) 450-0555

Hall and Field Rentals, Sports, Etc.

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

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

Taste of Melrose Park

Dial A Ride(708) 343-7047

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

Economic Development(708) 865-8809

Important Upcoming Dates

Village Board MeetingsOct. 27, Nov. 24

Village Hall Holiday ClosingsNov. 11, Nov. 27-28

Resident Response

Dear Melrose Park Residents ...

On Sept. 14, as I was in the lobby getting my mail, Mayor Serpico was talking with me. Suddenly I fainted and he quickly contacted our paramedics. Because of the mayor's actions and the professionalism of our paramedics, I was treated at the hospital and released.

I cannot thank them enough for their help at a very scary and serious time. Our village is the best!

• Marie L.

Resident of Riverwoods

Dear Melrose Park Police Chief Anthony Greco ...

On behalf of the village of Lemont and the Lemont Police Department, I would like to thank you for sending a representative from your department to display a vehicle in this year's Lemont Cruise Nights, the Law Enforcement Vehicle Night held on Aug. 20, 2025.

This is a great event for community members to have a positive interaction with the policing community. It was also a great way for Lemont to highlight its beautiful downtown location.

This year, we had over 75 vehicles representing their agencies. The event was well attended by the community and by many Lemont residents, both young and old.

There was a variety of departmental squads, motorcycles and specialty vehicles at the show. The Lights and Sirens Parade that ended the evening was a hit for all those present. A great time was had by all!

Thank you again and we hope to see you at our show next year!

• Sincerely,

Marc R. Maton, Chief of Police

Village of Lemont Police Department

Dear Melrose Park Police Chief Anthony Greco ...

On behalf of the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists, it is our great pleasure to acknowledge the exceptional DUI enforcement of Ofc. James Schiller, by awarding a certification of appreciation in recognition of these lifesaving efforts.

Every year hundreds of people are killed and thousands severely injured as a result of alcohol- and drunk-related crashes in Illinois. It takes only seconds to become a victim – without warning or choice. Impaired drivers make choices. They choose their weapons – vehicles and alcohol or drugs.

We at AAIM, pledge to continue our fight against impaired driving and to persist in our campaign of this 100% preventable crime.

AAIM conducts its annual DUI Survey of over 700 Illinois police agencies with funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation, wherein we request your department's top DUI officers.

In response, we ask that you pay tribute to this fine officer, as one of AAIM's Top Cops, with our congratulations and the presentation of his award.

You have our sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks for exceptional public service.

• Respectfully,

Rita Kreslin, Executive Director

AAIM – Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists



Village of Melrose Park Vehicle Sticker Information for 2026-2027

All vehicles registered in the village of Melrose Park are required to display a current year Melrose Park vehicle sticker. Stickers can be renewed beginning Nov. 3, 2025, and must be displayed on or before Jan. 1, 2026. They are valid from Jan. 1, 2026-Dec. 31, 2027.

All 2025 Vehicle Stickers Expire on Dec. 31, 2025.

- New stickers for 2026-2027 will be available at the Melrose Park Village Hall beginning Nov. 3, 2025.

Who Needs a 2026-2027 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 (2026-2027) if purchased on time.
- One free sticker per household (65 and older).
 - Choose one free two-year passenger car sticker or one free one-year B-truck sticker.
- Second vehicle for a senior in the same household is \$15 (half price).
- Bring a valid driver's license or state ID as proof of age to receive your sticker.

Car Vehicle Sticker Fees

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

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

Trucks

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

Truck Vehicle Sticker Fees

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

IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

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

**For more information, please call (708) 343-4000
or visit www.melrosepark.org.**



**MELROSE PARK
TRICK-OR-TREAT HOURS**
Trick-or-treating will be allowed
in the village of Melrose Park,
3-7 p.m., on Friday, Oct. 31.



**Is Your House
Decorated for
Halloween?
Do You Want to
Showcase Your
Display?**

**Email photos of your humorous haunt
or frightful dwelling to
TheRose@MelrosePark.org
and we'll get them in our next issue!
In the subject line, please list
Halloween Photos, and include
your name, address and
phone number in the email.**

**It's Time for
Some Halloween Fun!**



Always Stepping Up ...

Ofc. William Bianchi Receives MADD's Officer Daniel Stafiej DRE of the Year Award

On Sept. 6, 2025, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) hosted their annual MADD Hero Awards Ceremony at the Crown Plaza in Springfield, Illinois. The awards recognize police officers and individuals that combat intoxicated driving through legislation, enforcement and education.

This year, the Melrose Park Police Department's Ofc. William Bianchi won the prestigious Officer Daniel Stafiej DRE of the Year Award. This award is named after Ofc. Daniel Stafiej, who passed away in 2023. Ofc. Stafiej served as a police officer and drug recognition expert for the Carol Stream Police Department, on top of mentoring and teaching thousands of officers as a senior DRE instructor and leader in the DRE community. A DRE (drug recognition expert) is a police officer trained in detecting and identifying persons under the influence of drugs and in identifying the category or categories of drugs causing the impairment. In order to become a DRE, an officer must complete all phases of the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program's (DECP) training requirements for certification established by the IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police) and NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

This is Ofc. Bianchi's second DRE of the Year Award, also winning the inaugural DRE of the Year Award in 2023. Ofc. Bianchi became the Melrose Park Police Department's first drug recognition expert in 2022 and since then has spent hundreds of hours continuing his education in drug and alcohol intoxication, and how those substances affect the human body. He also has been teaching officers all over the state of Illinois in DUI enforcement, an educator in drug and alcohol abuse to the youth of the community and recently taught new recruits DUI education at the Cook County Sheriffs Police Academy. As of 2024, Illinois has approximately 145 DREs, which Ofc. Bianchi is proving to be a future leader in the DRE community, not only in Cook County, but also in the entire state, along with ambitions to be a future leader at the Melrose Park Police Department.



Ofc. Bianchi (left) is pictured with Mike Pappas, Illinois DECP state coordinator (DRE coordinator).



Pictured (left to right) at the MADD Hero Awards Ceremony are Ofc. Tony Ikis, Ofc. Bianchi, Mike Pappas and Sgt Jeff Nichols, ISP impaired driving coordinator.

MPPD Intern Chiara Dell'Orfanello Shares Her Story

This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to take part in a police internship at the Melrose Park Police Department, and it was an experience I will always value. From the very first day, I felt welcomed by the team, who were not only highly professional, but also generous with their time and knowledge.

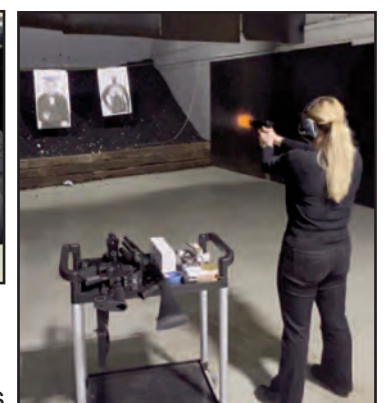
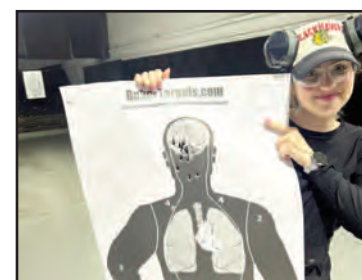


I spent time both at the front desk with the CSOs in Records and Ticketing and out on the streets in patrol cars. These experiences gave me a useful look at the day-to-day side of policing, from handling the public to seeing how officers respond in real time. Even in a short time, I picked up practical lessons about communication, observation and adaptability that I can carry into my future goal of working as a UN investigator.

Nevertheless, one of the most rewarding aspects of the internship was the chance to observe and learn from detectives at work. I was able to see firsthand how they approached cases – piecing together evidence, interviewing witnesses and attending court proceedings. For someone like me who aspires to work one day for the United Nations as an investigator, this was an invaluable learning curve. The methods and transferable skills I picked up – such as attention to detail, analytical thinking, teamwork and communication – are all qualities that will serve me well in the international field.

Beyond the technical knowledge, I also discovered the importance of empathy and patience in police work. The detectives and officers balanced professionalism with a genuine sense of care, which showed me how crucial interpersonal skills are in any investigative role. Watching them handle sensitive situations with tact inspired me to carry those lessons into my future career.

Overall, my time at Melrose Park was not just useful, but truly enjoyable. Every day offered something new, from ride-alongs to office discussions, and I often found myself excited to come back and learn more. I am deeply grateful to everyone I met during the internship for being so helpful, approachable and kind. Thank you all for making this such a fun, meaningful and formative experience – I leave with lasting memories and skills that I will carry forward into the next stages of my journey.



Melrose Park Police Department

A Message from Chief of Police Anthony Greco



*Anthony Greco
Chief of Police*



MPPD Announces New Lieutenant Appointment

At the village of Melrose Park Sept. 22 board meeting, Melrose Park police officer Dennis Natale was promoted to his new position of lieutenant with the Melrose Park Police Department.

Mayor Serpico and the village of Melrose Park congratulate Mr. Natale, and wish him and his family good luck as he embarks on his new role. Thank you, Lt. Natale, for your hard work and for always going above and beyond to keep Melrose Park safe for its residents and visitors to our community.



Pictured (left) is Mayor Serpico and Lt. Dennis Natale, and (right) Police Chief Anthony Greco, Lt. Natale and deputy chiefs Michael Scudiero and Alfonso Rodriguez.

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.

MELROSE PARK DOORBELL CAMERA PROGRAM

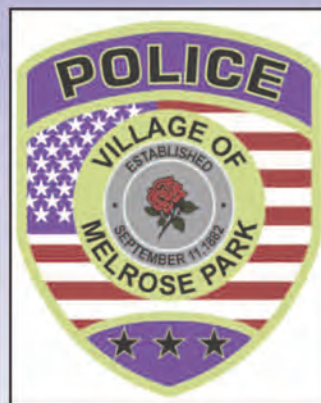
The Village of Melrose Park is planning a program to help residents cover the cost of home doorbell cameras, while at the same time keeping our community safe.

Residents who wish to participate in the new program can contact 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 Fire DepartmentNEWS



*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.

Halloween Safety Tips: Costumes, Candy and Colored Contact Lenses

Enjoy a Safe and Happy Halloween by Following These Guidelines



Whether your Halloween plans are for adults or kids, there's plenty to consider before choosing a costume, putting on makeup, and eating a bag full of treats.

To help you and your loved ones enjoy a safe and happy Halloween, here are some tips from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.fda.gov).

- Wear costumes that say "flame resistant" on the label. If you make your costume, use flame-resistant fabrics, such as polyester or nylon.
 - Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape so you'll be more visible. Make sure the costumes aren't so long that you're in danger of tripping.
 - Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure your vision.
 - Test the makeup you plan to use at least 24-48 hours in advance. Put a small amount on the arm of the person who will be wearing it. If a rash, redness, swelling or other signs of irritation develop where the makeup was applied, that's a sign of a possible allergy.
- Vibrantly colored makeup is popular at Halloween. Check the FDA's list of color additives to see if the colors are FDA approved. If they aren't approved for their intended use, don't use them. This is especially important for colored makeup around the eyes.
 - Don't wear decorative (colored) contact lenses that appear to change how your eyes look due to the risk of eye injury, unless you have seen an eye care professional for a proper fitting and been given instructions for how to use the lenses.

Safe Treats

Eating sweet treats is also a big part of Halloween fun. If you're concerned about food safety, there are some things to know.

Before you or your children go trick-or-treating, remember these tips:

- Don't eat candy until it has been inspected at home.
- Eat a snack before heading out to avoid the temptation of nibbling on a treat before it has been inspected.
- In case of a food allergy, check the label to ensure the allergen isn't present. Tell children not to accept – or eat – anything that isn't commercially wrapped.
- Parents of very young children should remove any choking hazards, such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys from the Halloween bags.
- Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as an unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes or tears in wrappers. Throw away anything that looks suspicious.

For partygoers and party throwers, the FDA recommends the following tips for two seasonal favorites:

- Unpasteurized juices and juices that have not been further processed are at higher risk of foodborne illness. Look for the warning label to identify juice that hasn't been pasteurized or otherwise processed, especially packaged juice products made on site at retail establishments. If unsure, always ask if juice has been pasteurized or not. Normally, commercially processed juice in boxes or bottles from your grocer's refrigerated or shelf stable sections, and frozen concentrate in the freezer section has been pasteurized or otherwise processed to reduce harmful microorganisms.
- Before bobbing for apples – a favorite Halloween game – reduce the risk of bacteria by thoroughly rinsing the apples under cool running water. As an added precaution, use a produce brush to remove surface dirt.

Eye Safety

The FDA joins eye care professionals in discouraging consumers from using decorative (colored) contact lenses that have not been prescribed by a doctor. Decorative contact lenses sold in costume stores or other retail stores without a prescription are illegal and could cause harm. These are contact lenses that have not been approved by the FDA for safety and effectiveness. Consumers should only use brand name contact lenses from well-known contact lens companies.

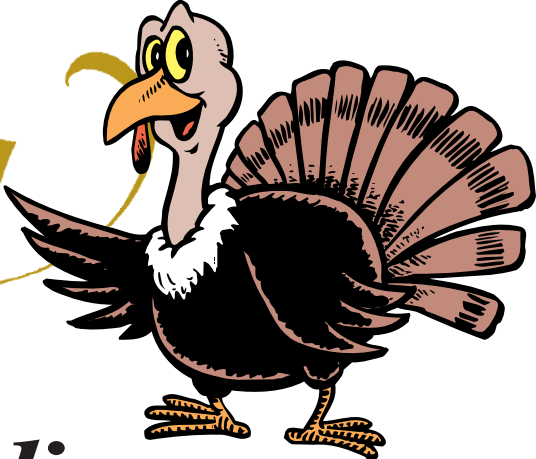
If you have never worn contact lenses before, Halloween should not be the first time you wear them. Experts warn that buying any kind of contact lenses – which are medical devices and regulated as such – without an examination and a prescription from an eye care professional can cause serious eye disorders and infections, which may lead to permanent vision loss. Despite the fact that it's illegal to sell decorative contact lenses without a valid prescription, the FDA is aware that these lenses are still sold without a prescription on the internet and in retail shops and salons – particularly around Halloween.

Although unauthorized use of decorative contact lenses is a concern year-round, Halloween is the time when people may be more inclined to use them, perhaps as costume accessories, which make the wearer's eyes appear to glow in the dark, create the illusion of vertical "cat eyes," or change the wearer's eye color.

When they are bought and used without a valid prescription, without the involvement of a qualified eye care professional or without appropriate follow-up care, it can lead to significant risks of eye injuries, including blindness.

Mayor Serpico's

Thanksgiving



Dinner Delivery

**RESERVATION MUST BE
RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE
NOV. 3, 2025.**

**MAYOR SERPICO AND THE VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK ARE NOW
ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS TO DELIVER FREE THANKSGIVING DINNERS
TO SENIORS (65 AND OLDER) AND SPECIAL NEEDS RESIDENTS ONLY ON THURSDAY, NOV. 27.**

We will deliver a meal that will bring the holiday aromas into your home.
The day will be filled with warmth, holiday cheer and a feast to remember.

**TO MAKE A DELIVERY RESERVATION, YOU MUST COMPLETE THE
THANKSGIVING DINNER RESERVATION FORM AND MAIL IT TO:
Village of Melrose Park, Thanksgiving Delivery
1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park, IL 60160
NO CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED. FORMS ONLY!**

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to
help with delivery, etc.,
on Thanksgiving Day.
Interested parties, please
call Lorena Anguiano at
(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.

RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE NOV. 3, 2025.
Meals will be delivered between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
YOU MUST BE HOME TO ACCEPT THE MEAL. MAXIMUM TWO PER HOUSEHOLD.
For more information, please call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.



Mayor Serpico and the Village of Melrose Park Thanksgiving Dinner Reservation Form

TO MAKE A DELIVERY RESERVATION, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

Phone _____ / _____ Please check: ☐ Senior ☐ Special Needs ☐ One Meal ☐ Two Meals

House Cellphone

(Melrose Park Residents Only. Limit Two Meals Per Household.)

Village of Melrose Park to Host Christmas Lights Parade with Santa on Dec. 17, 2025

Mayor Ron Serpico is excited to announce the Village of Melrose Park's Annual Christmas Lights Parade with Santa will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. from the Melrose Park Civic Center and will journey through the village, bringing holiday cheer to residents along the way.

This treasured community event is a cherished tradition for Melrose Park, celebrating the festive spirit of the season and bringing together neighbors, friends and families. The Christmas Lights Parade has become a special part of the holiday season, allowing residents to enjoy the twinkling lights, joyous music, and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus himself.

Mayor Serpico, shared his excitement for the event stating "The Christmas Lights Parade captures the magic of the holiday season here in Melrose Park. From sparkling lights to Santa's arrival, it brings smiles and warmth to our entire community. It's an event I look forward to every year, and I'm proud to invite all of our residents to join in the celebration."

Spectators along the parade route are encouraged to make this event their own celebration. Residents can:

- Decorate their homes and light up the night with their own holiday lights, creating a glowing path for the parade.
- Bring chairs and blankets to enjoy the parade with family and friends, while sipping hot cocoa or cider.
- Cheer on Santa with handmade signs or by wearing holiday-themed attire.
- Host small gatherings or "watch parties" with neighbors to make the night even more special.

The Christmas Lights Parade will spread holiday cheer throughout the village, bringing families closer and creating lasting memories for the children who eagerly await Santa's arrival.

To stay up to date with the parade route and event details, follow the village of Melrose Park on Facebook and Instagram. Updates, route maps, and any weather-related announcements will be posted to ensure the best parade experience for all.

Mark your calendars for
Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025,
and join us in celebrating the magic of
Christmas in Melrose Park!





Village of Melrose Park

Mayor Serpico's Snow Removal Program for Senior and Special Needs Residents



**RESIDENTS
MUST
PRE-REGISTER
EVERY
SEASON.**

**This service is offered to seniors (65 and older),
disabled with special needs and
those who have no family or neighbors to help.**

**AT 4 INCHES OR MORE OF PREDICTED FALLING SNOW,
YOUR NAME WILL BE ADDED TO THE SNOW REMOVAL LIST.
WE WILL DO A PATH FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR TO THE STREET
AND A SWIPE OF YOUR DRIVEWAY.
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES ONLY (NO RENTALS) – NO ALLEYS
– NO ALLEY SKIRTS TO GARAGE – NO BACKYARDS.**

For more
information,
please call
(708) 649-4450.

TO RESERVE SERVICES FROM THE VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM
FOR THE FULL WINTER SEASON, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND MAIL
THE MAYOR SERPICO AND THE VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK SNOW REMOVAL RESERVATION FORM TO:
Village of Melrose Park, Snow Removal • 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160

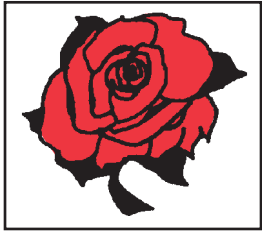


Mayor Serpico and the Village of Melrose Park Snow Removal Reservation Form

TO RESERVE SERVICES, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Age _____

**MELROSE PARK RESIDENTS – PLEASE TRY TO HELP SENIOR AND
DISABLED NEIGHBORS IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER – THANK YOU.**



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.

2026 – Fall Tree Planting Program

The list is now open for 2026 – Fall Tree Planting. To request a tree for 2026, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128.

2026 – 50/50 Sidewalk Program

If you would like to participate in the 2026 – 50/50 Sidewalk Program to request replacement of sidewalk squares, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128 for more information.

Melrose Park Dog Park

The village of Melrose Park Dog Park hours are 8 a.m.-8 p.m., seven days a week throughout the summer and fall. The fenced-in Dog Park is located at 13th and Main Street. Dog Park licenses are available at the Village Hall.

Please follow rules posted at the park.



Silver Creek Restoration Project

Under the direction of Mayor Ronald M. Serpico, the Village of Melrose Park Public Works employees constructed the Silver Creek Eagles Nest Park. This is a natural preserve that includes a walking path and a pavilion/gazebo, along with a canoe/kayak launch.

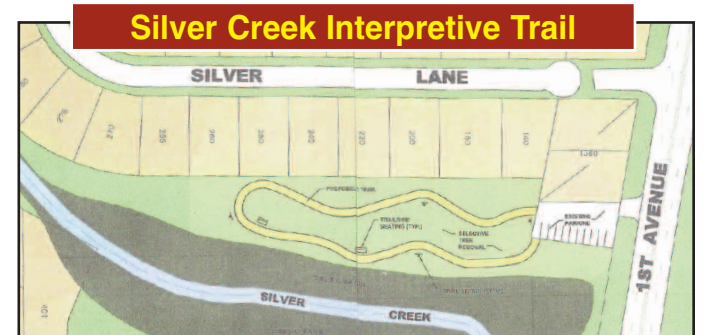
**Phase 5 and 6 of the
Silver Creek Stabilization Project have been completed.
Phase 7 is underway.**

This stabilization project restores the natural balance of the creek by restoring the embankment, and bringing back native landscape and shrubbery along with aquatic habitat. This is an invaluable stream system that provides storm water runoff, flood management and many other benefits for the residents of Melrose Park.



Silver Creek Trail Park

The Silver Creek Trail Park is located off of First Avenue. The trail is centered off the pond between Silver Creek and its tributary, the Des Plaines River. Native plants of this area were once lost to development and are now being reintroduced to the area. With the help of these native plants, more wildlife is returning to the area – from the Bald Eagle (sighted in the area), the Northern Pike, Red Foxes, Black-Crowned Night Herons and Cooper's Hawk, to name a few.



Do's and Don'ts While Visiting the Silver Creek Trail Park

1. No littering. Please clean up after any activities.
2. Pets must be leashed.
3. Smoking or fires are prohibited.
4. Please clean up pet waste and dispose of it.
5. Do not disturb any plants, trees or wildlife.
6. No loitering.
7. No hunting.
8. Fishermen must clean up any cut line, bail containers and all litter.
9. Park opens one hour after sunrise and closes one hour before sunset.
10. Enjoy the park.

*The Public Works employees are always in full force, working to keep the village of Melrose Park clean and well-maintained.
If you have a request, please feel free to call Gary M. Marine, director of Public Works at (708) 343-5128.*

Apply Now for the 2026 Senior Painting Program!

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



Mayor Serpico's 2026 MP Painting Program Request Form

Please print clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Age _____ Birthdate _____

One item to be painted (please circle one only):

Fence Garage Door Railings

Only one item will be painted per year. The 2026 list will be closed July 31, 2026.

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

The 2026 Senior Painting Program list
will be closed July 31, 2026.

Only one item will be painted per year.
Get your request in early as the list fills fast.



Village of Melrose Park

**Mayor Serpico
and the**

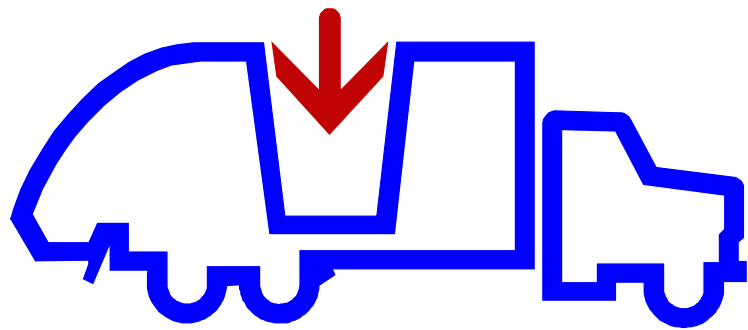
**Village of Melrose Park
are Seeking
Landscaping and
Snow Removal Professionals
to Provide Affordably Priced
Assistance to Our Residents
When Needed ...**



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.



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.

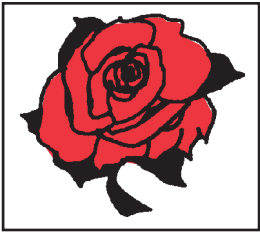
This information is also available at www.melrosepark.org.

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 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

Programa Para el Acceso 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.

Free Exercise for Melrose Park Seniors

**Come Join
in the Fun
with Instructor
Barb Rubright
(Rube's Garage)**

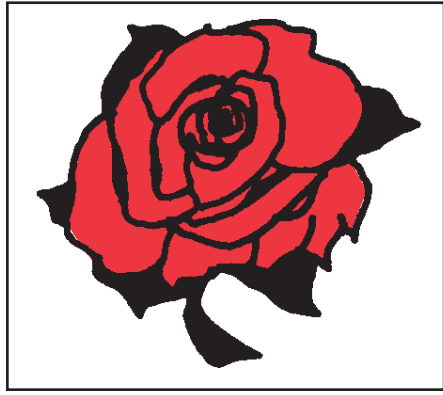


Monday-Friday • 9-10 a.m.

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

Socially Distanced Activity • Face Masks Required

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.



Melrose Park
Public Library



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NEWSLETTER FOR ALL THE
LATEST AT THE LIBRARY!

www.mpplibrary.org

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MORE--ALL FOR FREE!



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FILMS, KID'S FILMS, & DOCUMENTARIES
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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

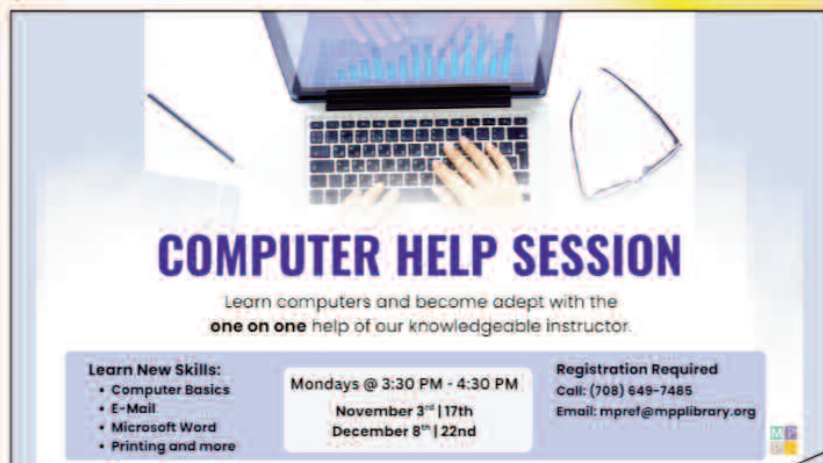


Melrose Park
Public Library



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

November 3rd | 17th
December 8th | 22nd

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



CHAIR YOGA

ADULTS | SENIORS

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

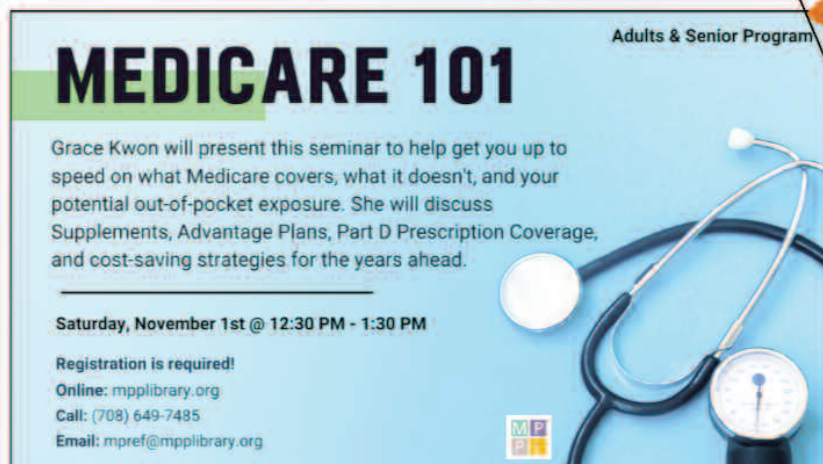
FRIDAYS:
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

2025 DATES

October 17th
November 14th
December 19th

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

Register Today!
BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY



MEDICARE 101

Adults & Senior Program

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

Adults & Senior Program

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

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

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



NEW & COMING SOON



Billion Dollar Ransom – James Patterson
The Secret of Secrets – Dan Brown
Katabasis – R.F. Kuang
All the Way to the River – Elizabeth Gilbert
The Book of Sheen – Charlie Sheen

History Matters – David McCullough
Great Black Hope – Rob Franklin
Heart the Lover – Lily King
About Time: Poems – David Duchovny
Broken Country: A Novel – Clare Leslie Hall

El ABC de las alergias ¡No todo lo que pica es alergia! – Dr. Jaime Sosa
La niña salvaje – Kristin Hannah
La tienda de hechizos – Sarah Beth Durst
Solo para siempre – Abby Jimenez
El síndrome de Ulises – Santiago Gamboa



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

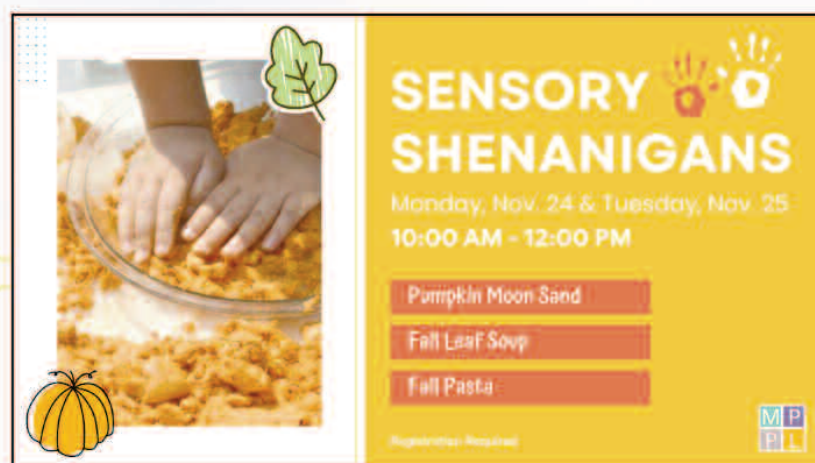
Online Storytimes & Make-It-Mondays



Make it Mondays: Visit the Library on Mondays to pick up your weekly craft bag. First-come, first-served. 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 10 am. 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 10 am for our littlest patrons.



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 Safety News



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

Are You Prepared for Winter Weather?

Winter weather too often catches people unprepared. Researchers say that 70 percent of the fatalities related to ice and snow occur in automobiles and about 25 percent of all winter related fatalities are people that are caught off guard, out in the storm. What winter weather preparations are being made in your area and what are the appropriate steps to take that will ensure your winter weather safety? Help your readers, viewers and listeners make sure their homes and cars are ready for the worst winter has to offer.

Winter Weather Watches, Warnings and Advisories – What Do They all Mean?

The National Weather Service uses specific winter weather terms to ensure that people know what to expect in the coming days and hours. A Winter Storm Watch means that severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, may affect your area, but its occurrence, location and timing are still uncertain. A Winter Storm Watch is issued to provide 12 to 36 hours notice of the possibility of severe winter weather. A Winter Storm Watch is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set plans in motion can do so. A watch is upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning when 4 or more inches of snow or sleet is expected in the next 12 hours, or 6 or more inches in 24 hours, or 1/4 inch or more of ice accretion is expected. Winter weather advisories inform you that winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, advisory situations should not become life-threatening. A Blizzard Warning means that snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow (near zero visibility), deep drifts and life-threatening windchill. Be sure to listen carefully to the radio, television and NOAA Weather Radio for the latest winter storm watches, warnings and advisories.

Why is Predicting the Exact Amount of Snowfall So Challenging?

Snow forecasts continue to improve, but they remain a challenging task for meteorologists. Heavy snow often falls in small bands that are hard to discern on larger resolution computer models. In addition, extremely small temperature differences define the boundary line between rain and snow.

What is Wind Chill?

One of the gravest dangers of winter weather is windchill. The windchill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin by combined effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. Animals are also effected by wind-chill.

New Wind Chill Chart

Wind (mph)

Calm	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
40	36	34	32	30	29	28	28	27	26	26	25	25
35	31	27	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	19	18	17
30	25	21	19	17	16	15	14	13	12	12	11	10
25	19	15	13	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	4	3
20	13	9	6	4	3	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-3	-4
15	7	3	0	-2	-4	-5	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-11
10	1	-4	-7	-9	-11	-12	-14	-15	-16	-17	-18	-19
5	-5	-10	-13	-15	-17	-19	-21	-22	-23	-24	-25	-26
0	-11	-16	-19	-22	-24	-26	-27	-29	-30	-31	-32	-33
-5	-16	-22	-26	-29	-31	-33	-34	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40
-10	-22	-28	-32	-35	-37	-39	-41	-43	-44	-45	-46	-48
-15	-28	-35	-39	-42	-44	-46	-48	-50	-51	-52	-54	-55
-20	-34	-41	-45	-48	-51	-53	-55	-57	-58	-60	-61	-62
-25	-40	-47	-51	-55	-58	-60	-62	-64	-65	-67	-68	-69
-30	-46	-53	-58	-61	-64	-67	-69	-71	-72	-74	-75	-76
-35	-52	-59	-64	-68	-71	-73	-76	-78	-79	-81	-82	-84
-40	-57	-66	-71	-74	-78	-80	-82	-84	-86	-88	-89	-91
-45	-63	-72	-77	-81	-84	-87	-89	-91	-93	-95	-97	-98

Frostbite occurs in 15 minutes or less

$$\text{Wind Chill (}^{\circ}\text{F)} = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})$$

Where, T = Air Temperature (°F)

V = Wind Speed (mph)

About Winter Storms ...

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

Regardless of the severity of a winter storm, you should be prepared in order to remain safe during these events.

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

Know the Difference

- Winter Storm Outlook** – Winter storm conditions are possible in the next two to five days.
- Winter Weather Advisory** – Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.
- Winter Storm Watch** – Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.
- Winter Storm Warning** – Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately.

How to Prepare for a Winter Storm

- Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

Put Together a Supply Kit

- Water – at least a three-day supply; one gallon per person per day.
- Food – at least a three-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food.
- Flashlight.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible).
- Extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Medications (seven-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc.).
- Multipurpose tool.
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items.
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies).
- Cell phone with chargers.
- Family and emergency contact information.
- Extra cash.
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers).
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl).
- Tools/supplies for securing your home.
- Sand, rock salt or non-clumping kitty litter to make walkways and steps less slippery.
- Warm coats, gloves or mittens, hats, boots, and extra blankets and warm clothing for all household members.
- Ample alternate heating methods such as fireplaces or wood- or coal-burning stoves.



Protect Your Pets During Snowstorms

Make Sure Your Pets are Prepared for Winter Weather

Winter weather can be hard on all of us. It can be particularly difficult on our pets that rely on us for their well-being, especially for outdoor dogs and cats. To help keep your entire family safe and warm, the American Red Cross has winter safety reminders for both you and your pets.

Pet Safety in the Winter

- If possible, bring your pets inside during cold winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas and make sure they have access to non-frozen drinking water.
 - If the animals are outside, make sure their access to food and water is not blocked by snow drifts, ice or other obstacles.
- The following tips on winter pet safety are provided by the Humane Society of the United States:**
- If pets cannot come indoors, make sure they are protected by a dry, draft-free enclosure large enough to allow them to sit and lie down, but small enough to hold in the pet’s body heat. Raise the floor a few inches off the ground and cover it with cedar shavings or straw. Turn the enclosure away from the wind and cover the doorway with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
 - Salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate a pet’s paws. Wipe their paws with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates their mouth.
 - Antifreeze is a deadly poison. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze out of reach.

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

Do You Have a Disaster Supplies Kit?

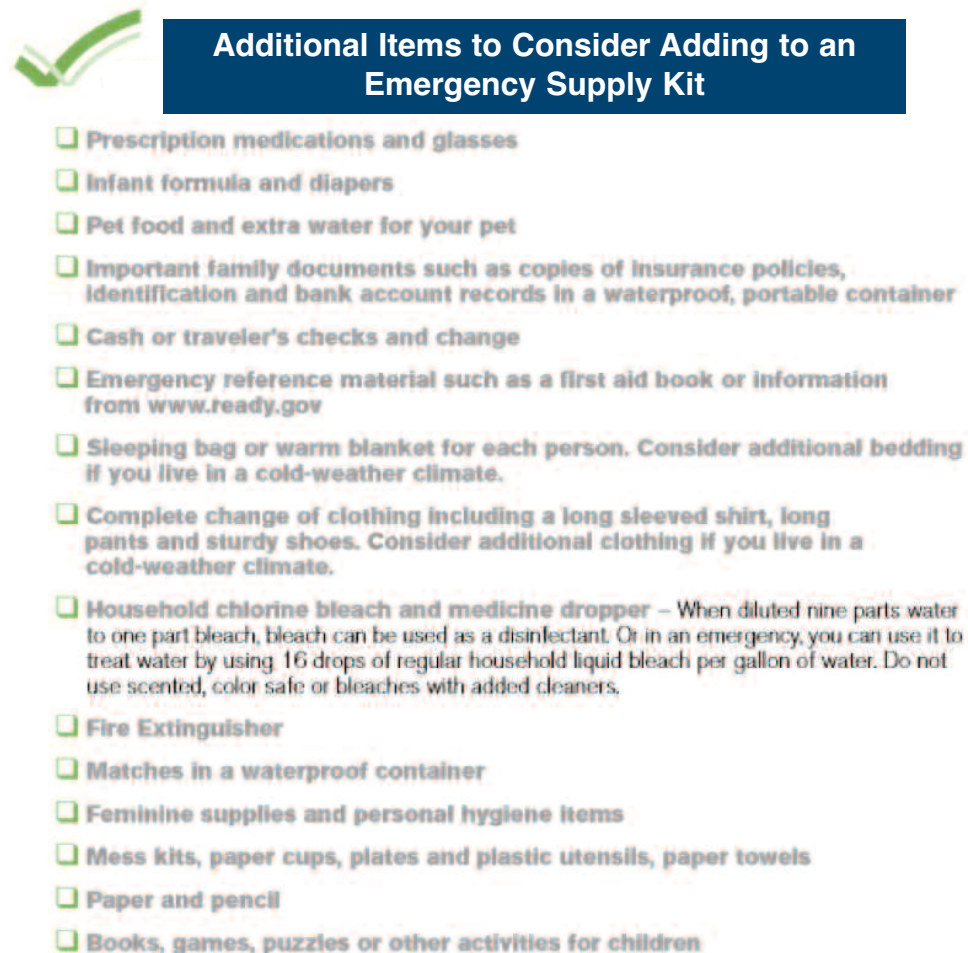
A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days.

Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit



Maintaining Your Kit

Just as important as putting your supplies together is maintaining them so they are safe to use when needed. Here are some tips to keep your supplies ready and in good condition:

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers to protect from pests and to extend its shelf life.
- Throw out any canned good that becomes swollen, dented or corroded.
- Use foods before they go bad and replace them with fresh supplies.
- Place new items at the back of the storage area and older ones in the front.
- Change stored food and water supplies every six months. Be sure to write the date you store it on all containers.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers, such as an unused trash can, camping backpack or duffel bag.

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



The ROSE

Advertising Contract

Complimentary 2025 Holiday Greeting Ads

Dear community member,

This year *The Rose* (the official newsletter of the village of Melrose Park) is offering an opportunity to reserve a special complimentary greeting ad in the Holiday 2025 issue.

If you are interested in reserving an ad, please complete this form, attach a copy of your business card or ad copy, and mail it to:

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

All ads must be received on or before Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025. For more information, call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.

Size/Rate

Business Card Size.....FREE

Greeting (Please check)

☐ Season's Greetings ☐ Happy Holidays ☐ Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Art Element (Please check)

☐ Bells ☐ Candles ☐ Gift ☐ Santa ☐ Snowman ☐ Tree



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

*Thank you in advance.
Your reservation is greatly appreciated!*



**Village of
Melrose Park**

COMMUNITY NOTICE



Jungle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle All the Way!

**Santa's Coming to
Winston Plaza ...
Don't Miss
All the Fun!**

**Arrival by Helicopter
Nov. 15 • Noon Sharp!**

Free Holiday Event – You're Invited!

Winston Plaza invites the community of Melrose Park to a complimentary holiday event! Santa lands via helicopter at Winston Plaza on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, at noon sharp! Activities and family fun to follow!

Enjoy a magic show, face painting, kids crafts and more! Get your free photo with Santa with a \$25 or more purchase from any merchant at Winston Plaza.

We look forward to seeing you there!



RSVP online now to reserve spots for you and your family, visit <https://winston-plaza.com/events/santa-arrives-by-helicopter-3/>!

Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

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

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

Mayor Serpico Leads Melrose Park in Support of Students at Closing the Gap Parade

On Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, Mayor Ron Serpico, together with leadership from the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD), proudly participated in the annual Closing the Gap Parade and Community Resource Fair held in Maywood, Illinois.

The event, designed to celebrate unity and highlight the importance of bridging opportunity gaps in education, brought together elected officials, civic leaders, schools and community organizations from across the region for a visual show of collaboration. Mayor Serpico joined Speaker of the House Emanuel “Chris” Welch, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners Toni Preckwinkle, Congressman Danny Davis, and many other officials from state, county, township and municipal government.

Mayor Serpico’s presence underscored Melrose Park’s deep commitment to supporting education and youth development. “Education is the cornerstone of opportunity and the path to stronger communities. Melrose Park is proud to stand with surrounding communities in ensuring that every young person has the tools and support to succeed,” said Mayor Serpico.

The MPCCCD’s participation emphasized the vital role that chambers of commerce play in fostering partnerships between schools, businesses and municipalities. The parade featured local schools, marching bands, youth organizations and a coalition of regional stakeholders, all dedicated to closing opportunity gaps and building a brighter future for the next generation.

MP Free Methodist Church Hosts Free Fitness Tips Event

On Sunday, Oct. 26, the Melrose Park Free Methodist Church will be hosting its Free Fitness Tips Seminar at 11:15 a.m. (promptly).

All are invited to join us for this free one-hour event teaching simple fitness tips.

These tips will be taught by Ms. Faith Pagani.

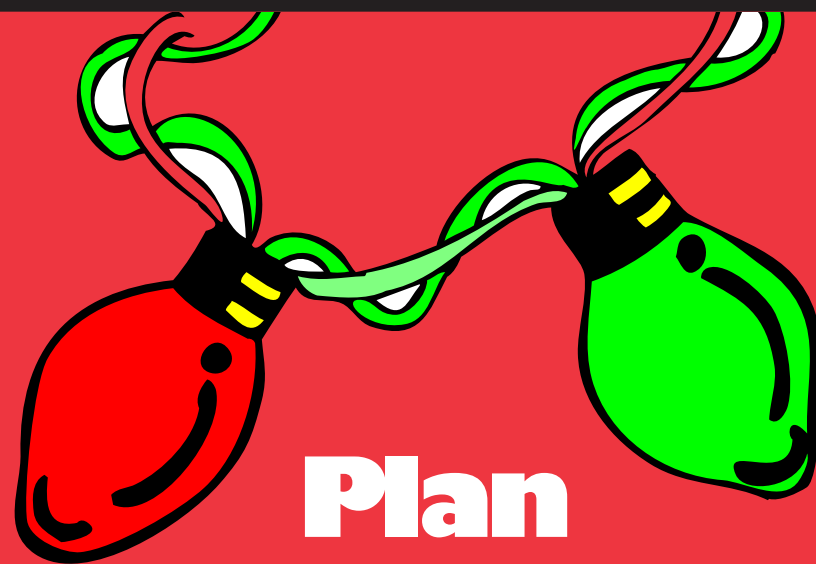
Faith has a degree in kinesiology from Northern Illinois University and is a certified personal trainer, as well as a licensed clinical massage therapist.

These tips can be performed with ease.

Designed for a quick and effective workout at home.

This seminar will be held at the Melrose Park Free Methodist Church, located at 841 Elsie Dr. (at the corner of Elsie Drive and Ninth Avenue).

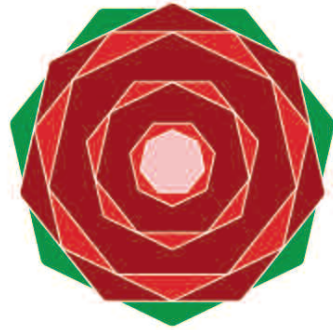
For more information, call (708) 343-2386. All are welcome!



**Plan
Ahead!
Join in the
Seasonal Fun!
Decorate your home
for the holidays!
Why not?
You could win a prize
on behalf of
Mayor Serpico
and the Melrose Park
Youth Commission.**

**Five top prizes (\$150 each) and
five runners-up prizes (\$50 each)
will be awarded for the best decorated!**

**Watch for more information
in upcoming issues of
The Rose
or call the
Melrose Park
Youth Commission
at (708) 343-4000.**



MELROSE PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Cook County Catalyst Grant Application Deadline is Oct. 31

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development is working with the Cook County Small Business Source to assist qualifying businesses in completing Cook County Small Business Catalyst Grants for \$100,000 that can be used for expansion, hiring additional staff and helping businesses fuel growth.

The basic qualifications to apply are that businesses must – Be a for-profit business located in Cook County; Have at least one full-time employee in addition to the owner (in 2024 and at time of application); Have revenue between \$500,000 and \$10 million (in both 2023 and 2024); Demonstrate business growth from 2023 to 2024 (in profit and jobs); and Operate in one of the following industries – construction, finance and Insurance, information technology (IT), manufacturing, professional services or real estate.

For more information or for assistance in applying, contact the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce at (708) 343-9500. Don't delay ... application deadline is Oct. 31, 2025, 5 p.m.

October is Manufacturing Month

Mayor Ron Serpico invited Isaac Bazbaz and the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development team to join him and Lake Book Manufacturing CEO Denis Gasparotto as they welcomed US Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia and toured the 50-year-old manufacturing company that was acquired by GV-Group.it in 2021.

During the tour, we were able to meet several of the 150-employee team with some having as many as 35 years' experience in printing books at 2085 Cornell Ave., Melrose Park, and also hear about the changes and improvements in the presses, binding equipment and lean manufacturing processes that have been implemented since 2021 to improve efficiencies, productivity and reduce the carbon footprint.

A special thanks to Lake Book Manufacturing for the time and tour, and most importantly, for its investments in the business, community and people.



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.

Welcome New Members

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) welcomed three new businesses as members in August and September, and now has over 225 members! Please help us welcome Mack Communications; Cuomo Catering Co., Inc.; and Home Care Powered by AUAF on their membership and partnership with the MPCCCD.

We also want to give special thanks to the five businesses that renewed memberships in August and September, and continue to participate in networking events, information sessions and provide feedback to surveys to help the chamber connect them with 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 Meals on Wheels for Northern Illinois; Andy's Frozen Custard; Melrose Park Currency Exchange, Inc.; SignCo Inc.; and Triton College.

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development 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 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/>.

Having Fun and Making a Difference

August and September are always big months for the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development with a little extra emphasis on community through participation and support in the District 89 Annual Back to School Picnic, sponsoring and hosting Bingo at the Taste of Melrose Park Labor Day weekend and this year, we also participated with the village of Melrose Park in the Bridging the Gap Parade and Community Event at Proviso East High School.

On Aug. 16, Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Isaac Bazbaz joined Mayor Ron Serpico and School District 89 Interim Superintendent Dr. Algeanna Griffin, other elected officials, businesses and teams of teachers and administrators from each school in District 89 for a day of fun, food, family and festivities at the Annual Back to School Picnic.

During the event, the school district distributed over 600 well-stocked backpacks to students, and the chamber held a raffle and 10 lucky students took home a new bicycle at the end of the event.

Executive Director Bazbaz said that this is the fifth consecutive year that the MPCCCD has participated in the D89 Picnic and that the chamber looks forward to participating again next year. Bazbaz also indicated that the event also gave him an opportunity to celebrate with several MPCCCD members since nearly half the sponsors/vendors are current MPCCCD members.

From Aug. 29-Sept. 1, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development hosted Bingo and a 50/50 Raffle at the Taste of Melrose Park for the fourth consecutive year! During the three days, over 100 games of Bingo were played, with winners getting half the proceeds from each game! Bingo pots paid off from \$20 to over \$150, that were paid to winners and the winner of this year's 50/50 Raffle received \$2,190 after their ticket was drawn just prior to the close of the 43rd Taste of Melrose Park and then donated \$200 to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) Food Pantry!

MPCCCD Executive Director Isaac Bazbaz said he truly appreciates the hundreds of people that participated in Bingo or bought a 50/50 Raffle ticket and congratulates each of the winners. Bazbaz continued by saying that the big winners are those that receive much-needed help and support from the OLMC Food Pantry, as 100% of the proceeds from Bingo and the 50/50 Raffle was once again donated to the food distribution center. This year's donation totaled \$7,385 and over the past four years, Bazbaz and Mayor Ron Serpico have been able to present over \$25,000 to the pantry from the Bingo proceeds from the Taste of Melrose Park.

On Sept. 13, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce team joined Mayor Ron Serpico and representatives from the village of Melrose Park, and elected officials from throughout Proviso Township in the Annual Bridging the Gap Parade which wrapped up at the Community Resource Fair at Proviso East High School. The day was filled with fun, food, music, resource sharing, and most importantly, a great display of a regional community and what is being accomplished through a shared vision for regional growth that expands across the 14 villages in Proviso Township.



District 89's Back-to-School Picnic



Taste of Melrose Park Bingo



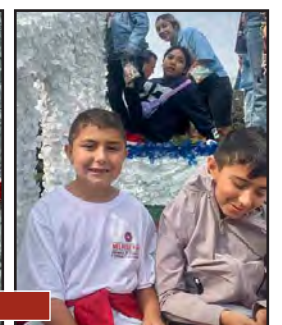
Taste of Melrose Park Bingo



Bridging the Gap Parade



Bridging the Gap Parade





BILL CARO
PRESIDENT

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(888) 308-8210

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MELROSE PARK, IL 60160

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ENTERTAINERS

CONCERT TOURS

PRIVATE ESTATES

PRIVATE FAMILY
PROTECTION

JEWELRY TRANSPORT
PROTECTION

SPECIAL EVENTS

BUSINESS MEETINGS

SECURITY CONSULTING

CONSTRUCTION SITE
SECURITY

BUSINESS | ESTABLISHMENT
SECURITY

BACKGROUND
INVESTIGATIONS

ALL SERVICES

HAVE THE OPTION OF
BEING ARMED & UNARMED



Thank You

Mayor Serpico Thanks You for Supporting Another Successful Melrose Park Event!

*On behalf of the Village of Melrose Park,
I would like to once again take this opportunity to
graciously thank all the volunteers, village employees,
department heads, Taste sponsors, local businesses and
supporters for their yearlong dedication and endless hours
of hard work to ensure the Taste of Melrose Park
continues its historical tradition of being the most
family-friendly and family-affordable food festival
in all of Illinois!*

With Sincere Gratitude and Appreciation,

Ron Serpico
Mayor Ronald M. Serpico
Village of Melrose Park

**Thank
You**

Gracias

Grazie

Dziękuję

Merci

Danke

Aciu

Kamsamnida

**Dýmo
arigatý**

Go raibh míle
maith agat

Obrigado

Shokran

**Thinks,
Moite**

Tak

Dank U wel

Kiitos

Efharisto

TODA

Spasibo
balshoye

Hvala

Ahsante Sana

Taste of Melrose Park Celebrates 43rd Anniversary







**Watch for more Taste of Melrose Park photos
in the Holiday Issue of *The Rose*.
If you have any that you'd like to share
and have published, send them to
TheRose@MelrosePark.org!**



SNOW DAYS & SLOT PLAY!



STOP IN TO CHECK OUT OUR PROMOTIONS!

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE!

**OPEN DAILY
9AM – MIDNIGHT!**

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



**LOOKING FOR
ALL YOU
NIGHT OWLS!**



\$2 COORS LIGHT



**FOLLOW
US ON
FACEBOOK!**

\$10 MATCH PLAY

VALID TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS • 4pm-12am • Expires 12/31/25



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

2209 Division #4 • Melrose Park, IL 60160

CUSTOMER NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

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

\$10 MATCH PLAY

VALID MONDAYS & THURSDAYS • 9pm - 12am • Expires 12/31/25



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

2209 Division #4 • Melrose Park, IL 60160

CUSTOMER NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

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

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



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

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

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

Melrose Park is Looking for Residents Currently Serving in the Military



Attention Residents

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

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





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

VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7
BULGER PARK, MELROSE PARK
CEREMONY STARTS AT 10 AM

Veterans Park District observes Veterans Day with a ceremony attended by community members, friends, employees, local schools, churches, and war heroes. Everyone is invited to honor our veterans and remember our veterans during this moving ceremony.



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



Veterans Park District

Programs & Happenings

Early Childhood Storybook Creations

Ages 2-5 (2s and 3s with Adult)

Books come to life in this imaginative class! Each session features a beloved children's book, followed by a themed craft, movement game or sensory play related to the story.

- Wednesdays, Oct. 29-Nov. 19, 12:15-1 p.m.; Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$40/NR\$50; Minimum number of participants required is four.

Toddler Turf Time

Ages 2-5 (2s and 3s with Adult)

Join us for a fun-filled morning of fitness and sports challenges. Led by Ms. Monica, the park district's early childhood instructor, children will be introduced to fitness and sports equipment in a positive and playful setting. Each session features themed play-based stations, interactive circle time with music and movement, and mini fitness activities.

- Mondays, Nov. 3-Dec. 8, 10-11 a.m.; Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$65/NR\$75.

Creative Arts

Unicorn Magic Party! • Ages 6+

Step into a world of sparkle and imagination with hands-on fun and magical surprises. Participants will begin by crafting their very own unicorn headbands, followed by a visit to the rainbow glitter face station for a sparkling makeover. They'll then decorate themed sugar cookies that are as sweet as they are magical. The fun continues with a treasure hunt where kids followed themed clues in search of hidden surprises. Each child will take home a cuddly mini plush unicorn as a special treat.

- Friday, Nov. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Grant Park Recreation Center, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$25/NR\$35.

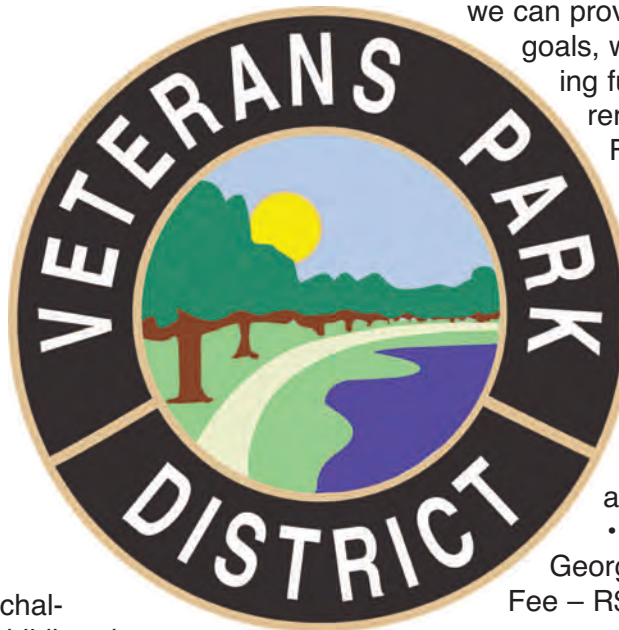
Fitness

Fitness Classes

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

Golf Simulator

Come experience Cimbalo Fitness Center's Golf Suite! Featuring a state-of-the-art Full Swing® golf simulator, our golf suite allows you to have a fun, realistic golf experience year-round. Our golf simulator offers something for everyone of all ages and experience levels, from the super competitive golfer to the super casual. With over 85 courses, multiple skill challenge courses, a driving range and a variety of challenge games/modes of play,



we can provide users with a great experience customized to their goals, whether that be improving their golf game or just having fun. Pricing is \$40 for one hour and \$20 for a half-hour rental, please call ahead to reserve a time slot. Cimbalo Fitness Center is located at 1203 N. 24th Ave., Melrose Park. Call (708) 343-5151 to reserve a time.

Youth Sports

Soccer • Ages 8-12

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

- Thursdays Nov. 13-Dec. 11, 5-6 p.m.;

George Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70.

Baseball • Ages 8-12

This slow-paced class covers the basic skills/drills of baseball, including throwing, catching, fielding and hitting. Please bring a baseball bat and glove.

- Mondays, Nov. 24 -Dec. 15, 5-6 p.m.; George Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$55/NR \$70.

Flag Football • Ages 8-12

In this noncompetitive class players will learn sound fundamental offensive and defensive football skills.

- Fridays, Oct. 10-Nov. 7; 5-6 p.m.; George Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$55/NR \$70.



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

CONNECT WITH US!



Cuomo To Go

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

Take home HOT or COLD!

Visit our website -CuomoToGo.com.

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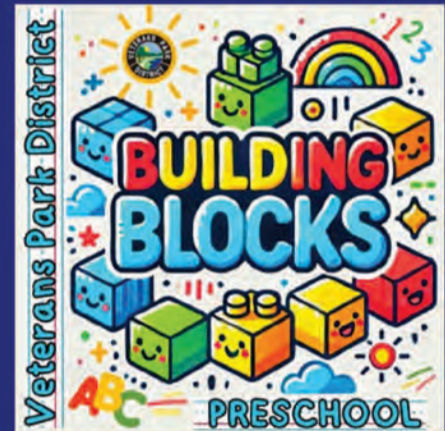
Veterans Park District *Programs & Happenings*



VETERANS PARK DISTRICT

BUILDING BLOCKS PRESCHOOL AT BULGER PARK

Ages 3-5 | Monday-Friday | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



● Program Goals

- Build group respect & security
- Encourage sharing & routines
- Promote responsibility & problem-solving
- Foster an engaging and supportive classroom atmosphere

■ Pricing & Schedule

Day	R/N Fees
M W F	\$203/\$233
Tu Th	\$141/\$171

This is a 9-month program with monthly payments.

✦ About the Program ✦

Focus on physical, social, intellectual & creative growth

Curriculum follows Illinois Early Learning Standards

Combines free play with guided activities

Snack provided daily

■ Registration Requirements

- Visit our website, call, or email

🌐 Website:

www.vpdpark.org

📞 Call:

708-731-5290

✉ Email:

gregstanczyk@vpdpark.org

■ Schedule a Tour

- Meet the Teacher & Staff
- See the Preschool Classroom

Register Now

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





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

Breakfast with Santa

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 • 10 AM-12 PM
BULGER HALL, MELROSE PARK

INCLUDES:

- * Visit with Santa
- * Hot Breakfast
- * Gift from Santa for Each Child
- * Gingerbread House*
- * Hot Cocoa Table
- * Special Holiday Mug for Children

* One per family, \$20 extra fee
for each additional house



REGISTRATION OPENS: R Oct 1 / N Nov 3
FEE:

R	N	
\$25	\$30	Ages: 3-10
\$30	\$35	Ages: 11-Adult

Children under 3 are admitted free, but still
need to be registered for the gift count. Max
125 people. Registration Deadline Dec 2nd.



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





Veterans Park District Programs & Happenings



VETERANS PARK DISTRICT CALL 708-716-4822



Youth Basketball League Grades 1-8

Veterans Park District is proud to present its annual Youth Basketball League. The basketball league will be available for grades 1-8. This is a non-competitive recreation league. Teams will be created by VPD staff members. All children will receive participation medals along with team shirts. Team shirts will be provided before the start of the first game. **Teams will be finalized in December. Coaches will contact parents with their practice times and dates. Teams will practice once a week.**

NOTE: Coaches for the 1st and 2nd grade teams will also serve as referees for that league.

Dates: Games start January 17, 2026
Practices start January 5, 2026

Picture Day: TBD

Games: Saturdays and Sundays, between 9 AM-6 PM

Practices (1st and 2nd grade): Monday between 5-7 PM
Tuesday-Friday between 5-9 PM

Game and practice schedule will be decided when teams are created

Location: Grant Park Gym

Early Bird Registration fee before October 13: \$80 R / \$105 NR

Registration fee after October 13: \$100 R / \$125 NR

Age: 1st Grade-8th Grade

Early Bird Registration: September 1–October 1

Registration: October 1–December 1

Rec Trac Codes

YBL 1-2: 393928 Z

YBL 3-4: 393928 Z1

YBL 5-6: 393928 Z2

YBL 7-8: 393928 Z3

Multi Child Discount:

1st child: Full Price

2nd child: \$15 off

3rd child: \$25 off

All children need to be associated with the same household.



Volunteer coaches make our Youth Basketball League possible—and successful! Our recreational league thrives because of dedicated volunteers, and we're always looking for both beginner and experienced coaches to join the team and make a difference.

Volunteer coaches are required to fill out the Youth Volunteer Application, pass a criminal background check, and submit coaching practice availability.

Coaches Incentive:
Coaches will receive 25% price off of their children's registration.

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





MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ST. CHARLES GUILD

PASTA DINNER FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

4PM - 8PM

MELROSE PARK SENIOR CENTER
900 N. 25TH AVENUE
MELROSE PARK, IL 60160

DONATION
ADULTS: \$15 EACH
CHILDREN: \$8 EACH

CONTACT:
GINA: 708-514-3018
SISTERS' CONVENT: 708-343-2162





There's a place for you.

**Register now
for spring!
triton.edu/spring**



Triton College





Triton College NEWS

Mayor Serpico Highlighted on Triton Pride Page

Featured with Others Who've Made an Immeasurable Positive Impact in Their fields

Triton College has played a key role in Mayor Ronald Serpico of Melrose Park's leadership and success, noting his deep roots in both the college and town.

"My father was one of the original Triton College board members," explained Mayor Serpico. "I was introduced to Triton at an early age."

Influenced by his father Ralph "Babe" Serpico's enthusiasm for the college, Mayor Serpico was inspired to take courses there himself.

"After I graduated from Proviso East High School in 1970, I enrolled in summer classes at Triton," he said. "I was fortunate to have extra credits when I began at Illinois State University. I was ahead of my peers."

With those credits earned, Mayor Serpico graduated from Illinois State University a year early. Always interested in politics, he went on to earn a law degree from DePaul University in 1977.

After law school, he returned home to Melrose Park, eager to remain in the town where his family's history runs deep. With pride, Mayor Serpico shared that his family immigrated from Naples, Italy, to Melrose Park in search of the American Dream.

"My father was born and raised in Melrose Park," said Mayor Serpico. "His childhood home is still here. If he were still alive, he would've been 100 years old."

Inspired by his family's resilience and his father's political endeavors, Mayor Serpico sought to strengthen the Melrose Park community. He successfully ran for mayor on April 1, 1997.

Having led Melrose Park for nearly 30 years, he encourages young residents to take classes at Triton College to get ahead in academics and in life.

As a leading community college, Mayor Serpico stressed that Triton College offers a wide range of degree and certificate programs, such as HVAC, Pre-Optometry, Nursing and Automotive, while also supporting ESL students. He noted that Woodlake Occupational Health (formerly Westlake Hospital), located in Melrose Park, is eager to hire Triton-trained certified medical assistants.

"Triton is a gateway to a four-year institution and offers so much value," said Mayor Serpico. "It's both convenient and affordable, which are essential items for today's youth."

Looking to the future, Mayor Serpico takes pride in both his town and Triton College. As a charter member of the Triton College Foundation Board of Directors, Mayor Serpico is committed to helping the college thrive and continue providing opportunities for the community's youth.

"Triton is the most accessible and cost-effective option for so many students," he said.

The Triton Pride page can be viewed at www.triton.edu/pride/.



Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor

*You're Invited ...
Please Join Us!*

29th Annual Triton College Foundation President's Reception Honoring Maria Braglia and Family Maria's Mexican Restaurant and Russell Anderson Posthumous Honoree Triton College Geography Department Faculty Member

The Triton College Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Maria Braglia (of Maria's Mexican Restaurant) and her family have graciously accepted an invitation to be recognized along with Russell Anderson (posthumous award selection) as honorees at the 29th Annual Triton College Foundation President's Reception – Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6-9 p.m.

This year, our elegant event will be held at Elmcrest Banquets and include a combination Filet Mignon/Chicken Francaise dinner, pasta appetizer, open bar, wine on the table, dessert and more! Specialty items prepared by the students and staff of the Triton College Baking and Pastry Program will be featured.

Please join us and share in the success of our biggest event of the year.

Several options are available for individuals to participate, including becoming a reception sponsor, purchasing tickets or a table, reserving an ad or by making a selfless contribution to support Triton Foundation scholarships.

Tickets for the reception are just \$100 per person and a table of 10 is \$900, with sponsorship options ranging from \$1,250 to \$10,000.

The Triton College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

For ticket, table, sponsorship and ad book reservations, please call the Triton College Foundation at (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3758, or send an email to tcfoundation@triton.edu.

Local Alumna Returns Home to Inspire District 89 Students

Students in District 89 received a special treat recently from one of their own. Trisha DiFazio – born and raised in Melrose Park, an

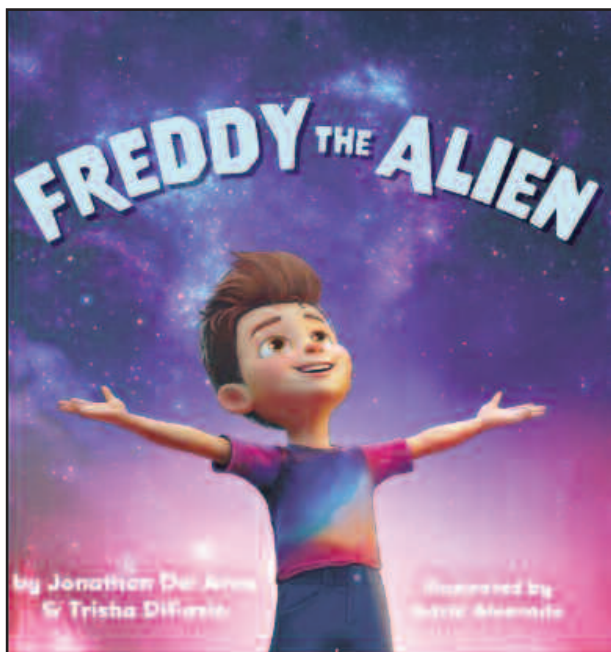
alumna of District 89 schools and a former teacher at Jane Addams – returned to her hometown to share a children’s book she co-authored with her friend, *Star Trek* actor Jonathan Del Arco.

Their book, *Freddy the Alien*, tells the story of a young immigrant boy who is bullied for being an alien, until a teacher changes his life. That boy grows up to become a successful TV actor, most famous for playing – an alien.

DiFazio and Del Arco read the book aloud to stu-

dents and followed with a lively Q&A session. Students delighted in meeting the authors and hearing such an inspiring story about resilience, belonging and the power of teachers to make a difference.

Now living in Los Angeles and pursuing a career in screenwriting, DiFazio reflected on her homecoming with gratitude. “I loved attending and teaching at Jane Addams,” she said. “This community made me who I am and I will always be happy to give back.”



NEWS89 **School District89 BRIEFS**

Early Learners Grow and Shine at Jane Addams Elementary

In Pre-K, Mrs. Schak's preschoolers are busy learning, playing and growing together each day. From building friendships to exploring new skills, their curiosity and joy are at the heart of every activity. Through hands-on experiences and plenty of opportunities to share and explore, students are building a strong foundation for learning.

Kindergarteners, led by Ms. Grimes, Mrs. Kiwan and Ms. Matticks, are also off to a strong start this school year. Teachers are guiding students through routines that build independence while helping them practice listening, following directions and working together as a classroom community. Alongside social skills, students are strengthening fine motor skills, such as holding pencils correctly, and engaging in hands-on activities that spark problem-solving and curiosity. Together, these early learning experiences set the stage for success in school and beyond.



Early Math Made Fun: Sorting and Counting in Kindergarten at Melrose Park School

Kindergarten students in Ms. Lascola's class at Melrose Park Elementary School are building early math and language skills through hands-on exploration. Using connecting cubes and colorful attribute buttons, students sorted objects by color, shape and size, then counted the objects in each group. They also practiced recognizing patterns, comparing groups and sharing their sorting rules with classmates.

Through guided sentence stems, students learned to describe, classify and explain their reasoning, strengthening both math and communication skills. "These activities help students think like mathematicians while giving them the confidence to express their ideas," said Ms. Lascola. The lesson highlights how playful, structured learning supports growth in problem-solving and language development for young learners.



www.maywood89.org

Follow Us on Twitter "@maywood89"



Garfield Elementary Harvests Learning Through Scarecrows

As autumn settles in, Garfield Elementary's kindergarten classrooms are buzzing with excitement – and learning. Students recently completed a festive Harvest Scarecrow Geometry project that brought math to life through creativity and play. Using scarecrows as their canvas, scholars explored two-dimensional shapes, identifying circles, rectangles, and other geometric elements in each part of their scarecrow's design.

Guided by Ms. Smith, students combined storytelling, art and hands-on exploration to strengthen shape recognition while learning how geometry is part of the world around them. The final scarecrow creations will be proudly displayed during upcoming parent conferences, giving families a chance to see both the joy and academic growth behind each project. The lesson is a strong example of how seasonal themes can spark curiosity and build a love of learning from the very start of a child's school journey.

Washington Dual Language Academy Sixth Graders Bring Early Man Studies to Life



Sixth grade students at WDLA recently stepped back in time to explore the world of early man through five interactive learning stations. Covering topics such as the Paleolithic Era, Neolithic Era, the Great Migration and elements of civilization, students worked in small groups to complete engaging tasks that brought history to life.

As they recorded their discoveries on flame-shaped cutouts, students combined their work to create a collaborative 3D fire – a symbol of both learning and teamwork. The project blended independent and cooperative learning with creativity and critical thinking, providing students with a hands-on, standards-based approach to deepen their understanding of how early humans adapted and laid the foundations of civilization.

Irving Middle School Students Simulate Knee Arthroscopy in STEM Project

Mrs. Gross, Mr. Tomschin and Irving Middle School students participating in the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) Program recently stepped into the role of orthopedic surgeons during a dynamic STEM simulation focused on knee arthroscopy. To better understand joint structure and movement, students engineered models of the human leg and designed surgical tools using classroom materials. They used an endoscope camera to guide their surgery, mirroring how real doctors perform minimally invasive procedures.

This immersive project blended math, science, engineering and technology in a meaningful way. Students practiced critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration while applying their knowledge to a real-world medical scenario. The simulation not only sparked curiosity, but also showcased the power of hands-on learning to deepen understanding and inspire future pathways in STEM.



Lincoln Fourth Graders Become Scientists for a Day

Ms. Esparza's fourth graders at Lincoln Elementary School stepped into the role of scientists during a hands-on science lesson. Using clay, students built rock layers and carefully placed fossils, such as seashells, small animal figures and leaves between each layer to represent different environments.

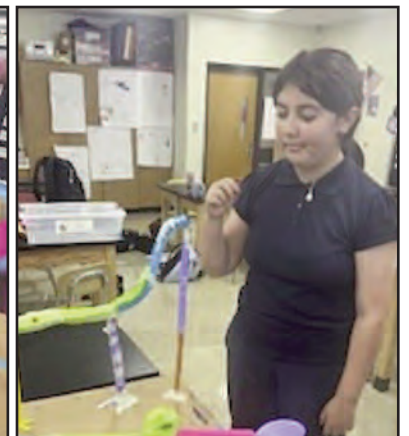
This engaging activity helped students understand how scientists study rock layers to uncover Earth's history and learn about the animals and plants that once inhabited the area. "It's exciting for students to explore science in a way that makes them feel like real investigators," said Ms. Esparza. The lesson combined creativity with critical thinking, bringing Earth's history to life for our young learners.



From Physics to Fun: Roller Coaster Design at Stevenson Middle School

Ms. Fitzsimmons' sixth grade STEM students at Stevenson Middle School are embarking on a fast-paced journey into the world of roller coaster design. As part of their unit, students apply physics principles, such as gravity, speed and energy conservation, to create their own models.

Through this hands-on project, students are learning what it takes to engineer safe yet thrilling rides. "This unit allows students to see science and engineering in action while sparking creativity and problem-solving skills," said Ms. Fitzsimmons. The lesson combines fun with real-world applications, helping students understand how physics shapes everyday experiences.



Building Stronger Readers at Roosevelt Elementary

At Roosevelt Elementary School, fourth graders in Ms. Lekakis' class are exploring vocabulary in a hands-on manner. Using their Interactive Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) vocabulary notebooks, students sort new words into categories, compare meanings and explore how words connect across different contexts.

The activity goes beyond memorization – students explain their choices, share their thinking with peers and use the words in meaningful sentences. According to Ms. Lekakis, the approach not only strengthens comprehension, but also builds confidence in communication. The vocabulary notebook has become a tool for curiosity, collaboration and deeper learning.



Emerson Eagles Soar in Math Learning

At Emerson Elementary, teachers and students are taking flights in their journey with mathematics. In September, classrooms were filled with energy as educators engaged in hands-on professional learning with math specialist Stephanie A. Roberts, focusing on instructional strategies and data-driven practices to strengthen math teaching.

Students joined in the excitement through interactive activities that encouraged problem-solving, perseverance and a growth mindset. With the support of i-Ready's adaptive assessments and personalized learning pathways, learners are tackling challenges at their own pace, celebrating progress as they go. As the Emerson Eagles soar, the school community continues to build a culture that values a love of math and continuous growth for every student.





**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.

The AD RESERVATION FORM

Save the Dates!

Next Issue – December 2025
(Deadline for material Nov. 25, 2025.)
Schedule for 2026

February, April, June, August, October and December

Dear Community Member,

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

Included is display ad pricing for your review.

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

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

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

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



Rates – Full Color Ads

Full Page
\$400 per issue (9 x 10 1/2)

Half Page
\$200 per issue (9 x 5 1/4)

1/4 Page
\$100 per issue (4 1/2 x 5 1/4)

1/8 Page
\$50 per issue (4 1/2 x 2 5/8)

Date _____

Name of Business _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

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

The  **ROSE**

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

Dear Parishioners and Devotees of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Shrine,

I want to take this moment to thank all the participants of our Sept. 11 event in honor of our first responders. I want to acknowledge Mayor Ronald Serpico for permitting this event to happen in our town and church.



Moreover, I want to show gratitude to Chief Phil Schwartz for organizing the presence of Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security/Public Safety, Police, Fire, Security, Military, Medical Emergency and all first responders.

I also want to thank the village for the support of our event and procession for Saint Padre Pio. It was a moment of hope and prayer for our community.



Fall is here and that means All Saints, All Souls, Thanksgiving and eyes set toward Christmas. The month of November is marked by religious and secular events that remind us of the important attitude of giving thanks.

Leaves change color, the sun changes its brightness, time falls back, and we are called to slow our pace and pay attention to those who value life, our saints, our faithful departed. Our Lady of Mount Carmel will have events where you can come with a picture of your loved one and place it on a table close to the church's main altar. We take the fall to remember and to give thanks. Welcome.

Thank you.
Blessings to all of you.
Rev. Leandro Fossá, C.S.



Special Masses and Events at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

PARISH & SHRINE

NOVEMBER 2025 ORGANIZE YOUR BLESSED MOMENTS *Special Masses & Events*

01

ALL SAINTS DAY

SOLEMNITY - TRILINGUAL MASS
ITALIAN/ENGLISH/SPANISH 5:30pm
Not a Holy Day of obligation this year.



02

ALL SOULS DAY

REMEMBRANCE MASS, REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE
All invited to bring a photo or candle for the Altar

13

FEAST OF MOTHER CABRINI

BILINGUAL MASS
ENGLISH/ITALIAN • 7:30pm



21

SANTA CECILIA, PATRONESS OF MUSIC

MASS FOR ALL CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS / TRILINGUAL
ITALIAN/ENGLISH/SPANISH • 6:30pm



23

CHRIST THE KING

SOLEMNITY - REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE
End of the Liturgical year
PARISH REPORTS



23

PADRE PIO

Mass followed by reception
ITALIAN • 10:30am



27

THANKSGIVING DAY

SOLEMN MASS - TRILINGUAL
ITALIAN/ENGLISH/SPANISH • 10:00am



30

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING
REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE
BEGINNING OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR



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

OUR LADY OF
MOUNT CARMEL

Altar and Rosary
ADVENT

Evening of Recollection

Tuesday, Dec. 2

6 pm mass

Followed by dinner and reflection

\$25 donation

Call the rectory to reserve



Fr. Tim Anastos

Fr. Tim is the Director and Chaplain of St. John Paul II Center at the U of I Chicago. He serves as eucharistic preacher for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the host of Reel Homilies on YouTube.

*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish
1101 N 23rd Ave. Melrose Park, IL
(708) 344-4140*



SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

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

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

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

VENDORS PLEASE CONTACT OUR
PARISH OFFICE FOR TABLES
708-344-0757 EXT 119
shseparish@archchicago.org

SACRED HEART &
ST. EULALIA PARISH
Presents

"MERRY & BRIGHT" CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR 2025

Saturday, December 6th, 2025

10:00am to 5:00pm

Sacred Heart Church Marian Hall
15th and Iowa Streets, Melrose Park, IL

"REINDEER" RESALE SHOP - Food Court - Bakery Table
Shop for Holiday Gifts, Jewelry, Scarves & Hats,
Jelly & Jams, Christmas Crafts, Pet Gifts,
Wood Crafts, and Gifts for all!

FREE PIC-
TURES WITH
SANTA 3:00PM

Grand Raffle

1st Prize: \$ 600
2nd Prize: \$ 500
3rd Prize: \$ 400
4th Prize: \$ 300
& More Prizes...



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 **7pm** at **alternating locations**.
Upcoming dates: **NOV 7** at **Sacred Heart**, **DEC 5** at **St. Eulalia**

Second & Third Saturday Chaplet of Divine Mercy

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



Thursday Adoration and Confession at 7:00pm

NOV 20 and **DEC 13 & DEC 27** at **Sacred Heart**.
NOV 13, and **DEC 20** at **St. Eulalia**.

All Saints & ALL Souls Day

All Saints Day Masses: **Saturday, November 1** at **4:30pm** in **English** & **6:00pm** in **Spanish** at **Sacred Heart**.



All Souls' Day Masses: **Sunday, November 2** in **Sacred Heart** at **8:30am** in **English** & **10:30am** in **Spanish** and in **St. Eulalia** at **10:30am** in **English** & **12:30pm** in **Spanish**.



Holy Hour Adoration followed by Anointing of the Sick

Thursday, November 20, **7:00pm** at **Sacred Heart**.

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 28 at **9:00am** at **Sacred Heart**.

There will be no Holy Hour on this day.



Immaculate Conception Masses on DECEMBER 8

8am Mass at **Sacred Heart** and **7pm Mass** at **Sacred Heart** and **St. Eulalia**. **This is a Holy Day of Obligation.**



Proviso Township Handyman Program

Fall 2025 – Proviso Township Handyman News

Time to close your windows and keep the cooler air out!

We can help take your screen windows off, put them away and install your storm windows.

Do your rain barrels and hoses need to be put away? We can do that for you!

Weatherproof your windows and doors for preparation for the winter months ahead.

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

Blinds/Curtain Rods - Install/Repair
Boxes Stored (50 lbs. limit)
Carpentry-Minor repairs i.e.: Replace loose/rotten boards

Caulking - Minor interior only - No removal of existing caulk
Ceiling Fans - Repair Switches Only
Decks - Minor Repairs Only

Doorbells - Repair/Replace Buttons
Door Locks - Repair/Replace
Door Sweeps - Repair/Replace/Install
Doors - Plane, Repair/Replace Hinges
Electrical Outlets & Switches - Replace

Electrical GFCI Outlets - Replace & Install
Faucets - Repair or Replace
Furniture Assembly (Small pieces only) (no IKEA)
Furniture Moving - 50 lbs. limit
Furniture Repair - Minor Only
Grab Bars - Install or Replace

Handrails - Install or Replace
Light Bulbs - Change
Light Fixtures - Repair or Replace

WE DO

Mailboxes - Install/Repair/Replace
Outdoor Furniture - Put Away/Take Out
Outdoor Lighting - Repair or Replace
(Height Limit of 6 feet)
Outdoor Water Spigot - Shut Off/Turn On
Picture - Hang Only

Referrals for Tradesperson - Referrals Only
Not Recommendations

Screens - Put In/Take Out (Limit 6 feet)
Shower Heads - Repair/Replace/Install
Shower Wands - Repair/Replace/Install
Sink Drains Pipes & Stoppers - Repair or Replace
Smoke Detectors/CO Detectors - Install or Replace
Batteries
Storm Doors - Repair (No Installations)
Storm Windows - Put In/Take Out (Limit 6 feet)
Supply Valves - Replace, Kitchen & Bath Only
Threshold - Repairs & Replacement
Toilets - Minor Repairs - **No Rodding**
TV/TV Converter Box - Install & Program
(NO Comcast)
Weather Stripping - Doors & Windows



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

PROVISO TOWNSHIP – Your Neighbors, Your Government

MICHAEL A. CORRIGAN, SUPERVISOR

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

Gay F. Chase, Trustee • Evelyn Chavez, Trustee

Joseph Christopher, Trustee • Tommy Olson, Trustee

Here to Serve Melrose Park & Surrounding Communities

Thank You Mayor Serpico!



Illinois State Representative
NORMA HERNANDEZ
77th District



*Illinois State Representative
Norma Hernandez*

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

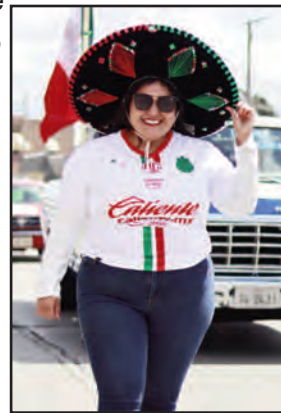
This month, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, a time to uplift the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities across the country and right here at home. From Sept. 15-Oct. 15, we honor the generations who have shaped our nation through activism, art, labor, leadership and everyday resilience.

Whether it's through local parades, cultural gatherings or advocacy efforts, this month reminds us that our heritage is not only something to celebrate, it's something to protect and carry forward. The food, music, language and traditions are vibrant expressions of identity, but so is the ongoing fight for equity, recognition, and opportunity.

Let us use this time not only to reflect, but to recommit – to listen, to learn, and to lift up the voices and stories that have made and continue to make our communities stronger.

HispanoFest, Melrose Park

We kicked off our Fiestas Patrias by participating in HispanoFest in Melrose Park. Our office had the opportunity to walk alongside so many of you in our district as we celebrated Mexican Independence Day.



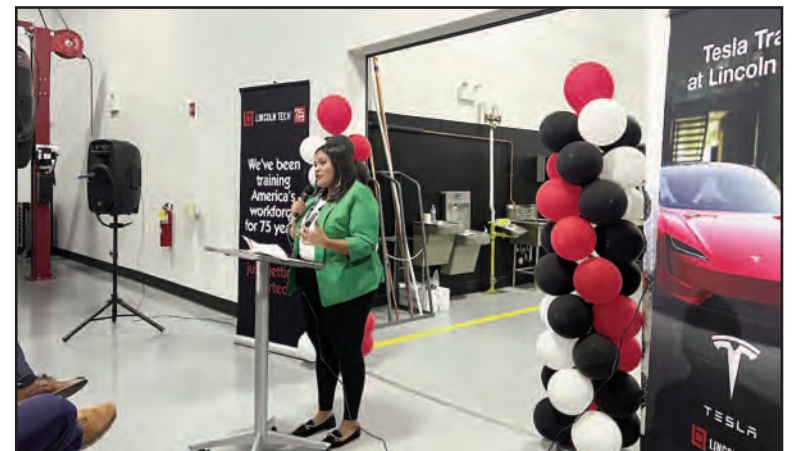
Lincoln Tech Ribbon Cutting

On Sept. 16, 2025, we stood with Lincoln Tech's Melrose Park campus at their ribbon cutting as they celebrated the launch of their new HVAC Program, the expansion of their welding facility, and the opening of a Start Training Center in collaboration with Tesla.

This grand opening represents doors opening for our neighbors, our young people and anyone in our community ready to build a better future through hard work and training.

In our district, we know the value of skilled trades firsthand. Now more than ever, technical education and skilled trades are vital to our economy and to the strength of our communities. These programs prepare students for careers that are in high demand, and essential to building and maintaining the infrastructure and technology that keeps our state moving forward.

We also know that these careers provide stability dignity, and pride for the people who do them. Supporting technical education isn't just about workforce development, it's about giving people the chance to build a good life and to keep opportunity close to home.



State Resources

Tax Relief: Now-Nov. 17, 2025, the Illinois Tax Amnesty Program lets you pay eligible back taxes without penalties or interest.

If you owe for tax periods after June 30, 2018, and before July 1, 2024, this is your chance to start fresh. Learn more at tax.illinois.gov/taxamnesty.

LIHEAP – Utility Bill Assistance

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households pay for home energy services (primarily heating during winter months). Energy costs can place severe and continuing stress on a family's budget. In some instances, households are forced to make painful decisions regarding which bills to pay and which necessities to survive without. Illinois residents with a household income that does not exceed an amount determined annually by the Department of Commerce are eligible. Annual eligibility levels are determined based on available funding and may not exceed 60% of the state median income.

As of Oct. 1, 2025, The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households pay for home energy services (primarily heating during winter months). Energy costs can place severe and continuing stress on a family's budget. In some instances, households are forced to make painful decisions regarding which bills to pay and which necessities to survive without. Illinois residents with a household income that does not exceed an amount determined annually by the Department of Commerce are eligible. Annual eligibility levels are determined based on available funding and may not exceed 60% of the state median income.

Beginning Nov. 1, 2025, all other income-eligible households may begin applying.



LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households pay for home energy services. Energy costs can place a severe and ongoing strain on a family's budget.

Illinois residents with a household income that does not exceed an amount determined annually by the Department of Commerce are eligible.



**AS OF
OCTOBER 1, 2025**

Older adults (age 60 and older), individuals with a disability, families with children 5 years old and under, and households that are disconnected from their utilities/energy vendors, have a disconnect date within 7 days, or have less than 25% in their propane tank, can start applying for LIHEAP assistance.

**BEGINNING
NOVEMBER 1, 2025**

All other income-eligible households may begin applying.

HOW TO APPLY

Visit helpillinoisfamilies.com to begin your application!

For assistance with completing and submitting your Request for Services form, contact the call center at **1-833-711-0374**.

Apply online or find a partner intake site!

Cook County



DuPage County



For eligibility and requirement information, visit <https://gqr.sh/dVNP> OR Scan the QR Code!



2025 ILLINOIS TAX AMNESTY

NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 17, 2025

Pay eligible tax.
Remove penalty
and interest.

Who's Eligible?

Individuals and businesses with unpaid tax debt for reporting periods ending
After June 30, 2018, and Before July 1, 2024.

What's the Benefit?

Pay your eligible tax in full during the amnesty window, and we'll waive all eligible penalties and interest.

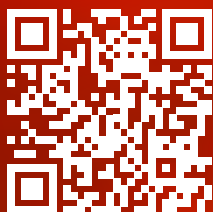
What You Need to Do:

- Already owe? Just pay your tax in full between
Now and November 17, 2025.
- Never filed or filed incorrectly? File now, fix errors, and pay the correct amount.

Some exclusions apply.

Learn more at:

tax.illinois.gov/taxamnesty or scan the QR code below.



IDR 1021 (N-08/25) Printed by the authority of the state of Illinois, electronic only, 1 copy

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital Receives Magnet® Recognition for Nursing Excellence

Loyola Medicine's Gottlieb Memorial Hospital has received its first Magnet® Recognition for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). This prestigious designation is considered the gold standard for nursing excellence and is awarded to hospitals that demonstrate superior quality in patient care, nursing leadership and innovation in professional nursing practice.

Fewer than 10% of hospitals in the U.S. have earned Magnet status, which reflects a hospital's commitment to creating a supportive environment for nurses and delivering outstanding patient outcomes.

The commission praised the hospital's commitment to quality patient care and professional nursing practice, recognizing 13 exemplars of nursing excellence, including:

- Outstanding performance in nursing-sensitive indicators across both inpatient and ambulatory settings.
- Exceptional patient experience scores in courtesy and respect, careful listening and patient education.
- Nurse-driven protocols that led to a 51% reduction in inpatient falls with injury.
- A robust culture of shared governance, clinical autonomy and transformational leadership.
- Innovations in care delivery, including the use of Avasure virtual monitoring technology and the iCARE communication model.

"Gottlieb's first Magnet designation reflects our commitment to delivering high-quality patient care, fostering a strong professional practice environment for nursing and driving organizational excellence," said Tara Yurinich, MSN, RN, chief nursing officer at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital. "The impact of this work is evident – in our nurse-sensitive indicators, in our patient experience scores, and in our continued success in attracting and retaining exceptional nursing talent."

The ANCC highlighted Gottlieb's consistent outperformance of national benchmarks in key areas, such as hospital-acquired pressure injuries, CAUTIs, CLABSIs and ambulatory surgical outcomes – all driven by frontline nursing leadership and collaboration.

"This designation affirms the strength of our nursing culture – one built on trust, collaboration and a shared commitment to continuous improvement," said Elizabeth Early, president of Gottlieb Memorial Hospital. "It's a proud moment for Gottlieb and a testament to the entire staff whose dedication and teamwork make this level of excellence possible."



www.loyolamedicine.org

Former NICU Baby Returns to Loyola as Labor and Delivery Nurse

For Cristina Jakubec, RN, returning to Loyola Medicine wasn't just a career move – it was a homecoming.

Jakubec was born at Loyola in March 1995 at just 24 weeks and six days, weighing only 1 lb. 6 oz. With a 10% chance of survival, she spent three months in the NICU under the care of neonatologist Jonathan Muraskas, MD, and a dedicated team of nurses. Her early days were marked by challenges, including a near-surgical infection that miraculously resolved after a baptism the morning of the planned procedure. Jakubec's story of resilience was even featured in the news for Loyola's pioneering use of Kangaroo Care – skin-to-skin contact between parents and their premature infants.

That early connection to Loyola never faded. As a teenager, Jakubec returned to volunteer at the hospital that gave her a fighting chance. In 2012, she volunteered on the inpatient rehab floor, followed by time in the Emergency Department in 2013, and on 2 South in 2015 and 2016. During one visit to the NICU, she was introduced as a graduate to a mother of a preemie – which gave hope to the mother.

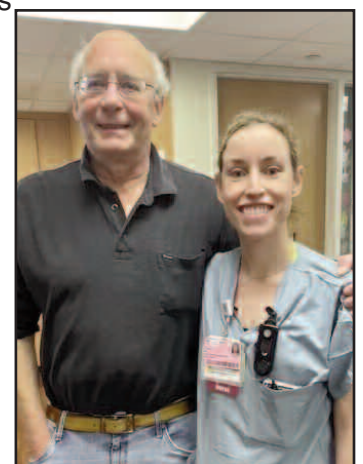
Jakubec began her nursing career at Advocate Christ Medical Center, working on a med-surg/pulmonary/remote telemetry floor for three years. In October 2022, she transitioned to Labor and Delivery at MacNeal Hospital, and in March 2024, she came full circle – joining the Labor and Delivery team at Loyola University Medical Center.

"It's amazing to be able to work at the hospital I was born at," Jakubec says. "I love helping moms through their labor journey. It's incredibly meaningful to build relationships with patients and witness the moment they become parents."

Jakubec has a special place in her heart for mothers facing preterm labor. "Being a preemie myself, I feel a unique connection to them. Sometimes, when the moment feels right, I share my story. It helps them feel seen, understood and hopeful."

She still keeps in touch with the NICU nurses who cared for her as a newborn – some even attended her nursing school graduation party. And she's had the chance to reconnect with Dr. Muraskas, the physician who once fought for her survival, now as a fellow health care professional.

Jakubec's journey is a testament to the power of compassionate care, resilience and the deep bonds formed in moments of vulnerability. Loyola's NICU continues to be a place of hope for families and Jakubec is living proof of the miracles that happen within its walls.





*Cook County Commissioner
Frank J. Aguilar*



IMPORTANT NEWS FROM

FRANK J. AGUILAR

COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar Hosts Fifth Annual Dia de los Muertos Family Resource Fair Residents from Throughout the 16th District Attended the Fair Which Provided Health and Family Services

On Saturday, Oct. 4, Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar hosted the Fifth Annual 16th District Dia de los Muertos Resource Fair at his district office. Partnering with Commissioner Aguilar were the village of Lyons, Lyons School District 103, Teamsters Local 777 and Rincon Family Services. Also in attendance to provide resources and services to constituents were Alivio Medical Center, Corazon Community Services, Mobile Care Chicago Dental and other local organizations. Residents received glucose screenings, HIV tests, flu vaccines and more services. Also available was a face painting station for children.

"I'd like to thank all of our partners for bringing these services to our district and I'd like to thank everyone who attended this very successful family resource fair," said Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. "I am thrilled that we were able to bring such a wide-range of services, supporting our resident's health and their pocketbooks at the same time. There is always work to do and I am so grateful that the 16th District is filled with organizations and residents willing to put in the time to make the 16th District as strong as it can be."

Over the last five years, this resource fair has become a staple of the 16th District. By keeping the location the same, residents know where to access resources without the red tape and obstacles that they often face. By tailoring to the needs of the community, residents are able to obtain the services and resources they need in order to keep themselves and their families healthy, while also building relationships with local elected officials and community organizations that can provide continued support, both now and in the future.



Commissioner Aguilar Hosts Discussion on 16th District Infrastructure Funding

On Thursday, Sept. 4, Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar hosted a Facebook Live Virtual Town Hall to discuss infrastructure investment and funding in Cook County's 16th District. Joining Commissioner Aguilar was Cook County's Department of Transportation and Highways (DOTH) Supt. Jennifer "Sis" Killen. During the Facebook Live, Supt. Killen gave an overview of the Invest in Cook Grant Program, along with other county-funded infrastructure projects located throughout the 16th District.

"This investment will have a real, day-to-day impact on 16th District residents," said Commissioner Aguilar. "Funding our transportation infrastructure is crucial to keeping residents and visitors safe as they navigate their daily lives. It truly is amazing to see the partnership between 16th District municipalities and Cook County work together to provide improvements to our communities. I'd like to thank Supt. Killen for joining us and helping share these exciting and important investments."

Since Commissioner Aguilar became county commissioner in 2020, \$6,133,705 in county funding has been distributed to the 16th District over the course of 28 Invest in Cook projects. Invest in Cook is an initiative that's part of Connecting Cook County, the county's long-range transportation plan, which guides how the county invests in transportation to attract and retain businesses, people, capital and talent.

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

In addition to Invest in Cook funding, the 16th District has received support from other infrastructure funding sources. To help mitigate flooding, a top priority of Commissioner Aguilar, the county's DOTH has distributed \$4,200,000 for stormwater management over seven projects from its American Rescue Plan Allocation. Recently completed construction projects provided nearly \$36 million to the 16th District, including over \$34 million to repair the Central Avenue Bridge. Another \$3,696,054 was also distributed over three projects for pavement rehabilitation.

To find out more on the Invest in Cook Program, including past projects in the district, you may visit www.cookcountyil.gov/investincook.

Commissioner Aguilar Hosts First of Monthly VetConnect Workshops at District Office

On Tuesday, Aug. 26, Commissioner Aguilar hosted the first of a monthly workshop for veteran support services at his district office. The event connected veterans with multiple agencies and services, bringing these resources directly to 16th District veterans and their families.

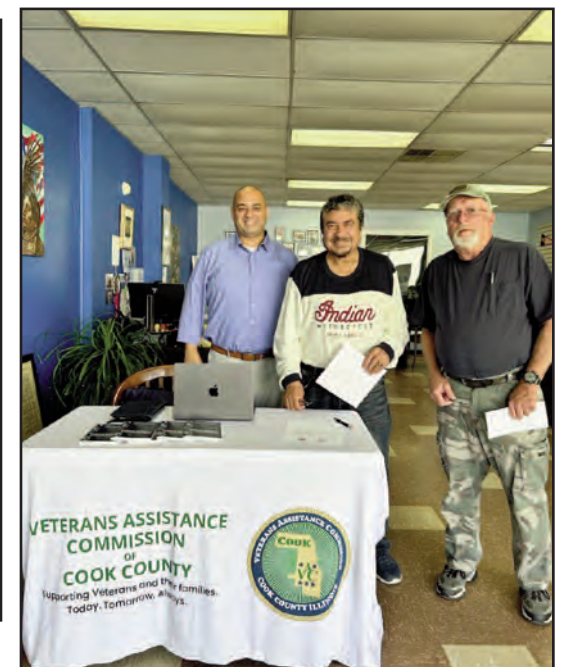
Joining Commissioner Aguilar was the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County, Rincon Family Services and Get Covered Illinois. Services veterans and their families could access included Veteran Affairs claims and benefit assistance, mortgage and rental assistance, utility assistance, internet and phone bill assistance, and more.

"In America, veterans volunteer to protect this country. When their tours are over, we must meet them where they are and make sure resources and support services are accessible," said Commissioner Aguilar. "I'd like to thank the VACCC, Rincon Family Services and Get Covered Illinois for joining us. Most importantly, thank you to our veterans. We will continue to ensure that you and your family have access to the resources and support you deserve."

This workshop was the first in a monthly series of veteran support events located at Commissioner Aguilar's district office at 7833 Ogden Ave., Lyons, Illinois. These workshops will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

"At the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County, Supt. Elizabeth Soto has stated that our mission is simple yet vital – to ensure every Veteran and their family receives the benefits, services and support they have rightfully earned. Through our VetConnect Office Hours Program, we are bringing that mission directly into the heart of Cook County's communities," said VACCC Communications and Outreach Manager Conner Intress.

"By embedding our team in local elected officials' offices, public libraries and neighborhood spaces, we remove barriers to access and meet veterans where they are. The goal is to provide personalized guidance on benefits, emergency financial services and resource navigation in real time, so no veteran has to face the system alone. This initiative reflects our core commitment: Strategic, Targeted, and Responsive service to those who served."





News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

Road Safety & Fairness Act Signed into Law

Giannoulias-AARP Illinois Measure Establishes Procedures to Report Unsafe Drivers Removes Behind-the-Wheel Driving Test Barrier for Safest Drivers

Legislation championed by Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias and AARP Illinois that makes roads safer and removes age barriers to align Illinois with the rest of the nation was signed into law recently by Gov. JB Pritzker.

The Road Safety & Fairness Act (HB 1226), introduced by State Sen. Ram Villivalam (8th District – Chicago) and State Rep. Jay Hoffman (113th District – Belleville), passed the Illinois House and Senate chambers unanimously during the General Assembly’s Spring session earlier this year. The legislation, which passed with 70% of lawmakers signing on as co-sponsors, takes effect on July 1, 2026.

The legislation creates new procedures aimed at preventing unsafe motorists – regardless of age – from driving by enabling immediate relatives to report a decline in cognitive or medical issues to the state for review. Illinois is currently one of only five states that do not allow immediate family members to report concerns about a relative’s driving ability.

The measure also increases the age at which Illinois drivers must take a behind-the-wheel driving test from 79 to 87. Illinois is currently the only state in the nation that requires a behind-the-wheel driving test for seniors based on age. Meanwhile, the latest statistics from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) reveal that in 2023, the crash rate for drivers 75 and older is 24.61 per 1,000 drivers, which is lower than every age range of drivers between 16 and 74 years old.

“The Road Safety & Fairness Act is common-sense, bipartisan legislation that will make our roads safer for everyone and make the process more fair for seniors,” Giannoulias said. “In signing this legislation, the governor has aligned Illinois’ reporting and testing standards with other states that have long since made these changes to increase safety and fairness on our roads.”

“The Road Safety and Fairness Act is a vital step toward ending outdated and discriminatory practices that unfairly target older drivers in Illinois,” said Philippe Largent, state director of AARP Illinois. “With 1.7 million members across the state, AARP Illinois proudly supports this legislation because it promotes fairness, respects individual ability over age and helps older adults stay safely connected to their communities. We commend Gov. Pritzker, Secretary Giannoulias and the General Assembly for their leadership on this important matter. This measure will align Illinois senior driving standards with the rest of the nation while increasing safeguards so that Illinois remains among the strictest states for road safety,” Villivalam said. “It’s time to adjust this unnecessary and burdensome requirement unfairly placed on our state’s safest drivers.”

“A birthday is not an accurate gauge of one’s ability to get behind the wheel safely. Driving ability and medical health should serve as the determining factors,” said Hoffman. “Allowing immediate relatives – who have the most consistent interactions with their loved ones – to report medical concerns about a licensed driver is a more effective approach to maintaining road safety.”

“Illinois was an outlier as it was the only state that still had this antiquated law on the books and I’m proud that we’ve finally brought that to an end,” said State Sen. Don DeWitte (33rd District – West Dundee). “It was a privilege to work on a bipartisan basis to get this important legislation signed into law. I can’t tell you how many phone calls my office received from seniors who felt unfairly targeted and discriminated against, despite having stellar driving records. With this new law, we’re finally treating them with the fairness and respect they deserve.”

“I want to take a moment to thank the seniors who came out to our events, called, sent emails and shared with me their concerns and frustrations on their experiences in the senior license renewal system,” said chief co-sponsor State Rep. Jeff Keicher (70th District – Sycamore). “We need to use this as a positive example to encourage engagement in your state government. What helped this issue prevail is the input and actions of Illinoisans and I thank the seniors who started the conversation for that.”

Under the Road Safety & Fairness Act, behind-the-wheel driving test requirements will be amended as follows:

- Drivers ages 79 and 80 will still be required to visit a DMV facility if they need to renew their driver’s license and take a vision test (and a written test if a driving violation exists), but would not have to take a driving test.
- Drivers between the ages of 81 and 86 will still be required to visit a DMV facility to renew their license every two years, which is a shorter renewal period than most drivers, which is every four years. They will still be required to take a vision test (and a written test if a driving violation exists), but will not have to take a driving test.
- Drivers aged 87 and older will continue to be required to renew their license annually. These renewals will include a vision test and a driving test. A written exam may be required depending on the individual’s driving record. The law governing this age group will not change under the new law.

Age	Renewal Frequency	Online/In Person	Vision Test	Drive Test	Change
Under 79	Every four years.	Online.	Yes.	No.	None.
79 and 80	Every four years.	In person.	Yes.	No.	Drive test eliminated.
81-86	Every two years.	In person.	Yes.	No.	Drive test eliminated.
87+	Every year.	In person.	Yes.	Yes.	None.

A temporary measure sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic that raised the age of mandatory driving tests from 75 to 79 became permanent in 2024 after an office-commissioned study found no significant increases in crashes per licensed driver in each affected age range.

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

Giannoulas Takes Aim at Financial Scammers

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas has strengthened the state’s Securities Department with four high-level hires charged with protecting and safeguarding the financial interests of Illinoisans and their investments.

The office has hired a new deputy director, chief of enforcement, chief of examinations and senior investigator, each of whom bring a wealth of knowledge in financial law, litigation and investigations to their respective positions.

“Adding these individuals to our Securities team is a huge win for the people of Illinois,” Giannoulas said. “Their combined experience and expertise will bolster an already formidable Securities Department and better position our office to tackle complex financial cases involving cryptocurrency and root out fraud.”

In addition, Giannoulas was also reappointed earlier this month as co-chair of the Securities Committee of the National Association of Secretaries of State and his Department Director Chet Taylor was elected to the Board of Directors of the North American Securities Administrators Association.

The Illinois Secretary of State’s Securities Department regulates the investment industry in Illinois, registering more than 250,000 securities salespeople and 25,000 investment advisor representatives statewide, while cracking down on instances of fraud, scams and financial abuse. The Securities Department has 37 employees and generates more than \$60 million each year in fees, fines and penalties for the state.

Like that of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Illinois Securities Department’s budget is funded by its collection of fees from the securities industry and money recovered from administrative fines to fund its operations, rather than relying on taxpayer dollars.

By devoting more resources to increase the number of attorneys, investigators and examiners, and enhancing its financial literacy efforts, the state will better safeguard citizens’ financial interests and small investors. Additionally, these efforts pay for themselves while bringing in more revenue.

The new hires include:

- Kristine Kolky joins the Securities Department as its deputy director. In this role, Kris oversees monitoring and investigating claims of financial exploitation, targeting seniors and other vulnerable individuals. She also provides educational resources to help residents prevent and report financial fraud. Prior to joining the department, Kris was a partner at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister in Chicago, where she specialized in complex commercial litigation. Kolky graduated from the University of Michigan before earning her law degree from DePaul University School of Law.
- Victor Turla joins the Securities Department as chief of enforcement. In this role, Victor oversees investigations involving violations of Illinois securities law, initiating enforcement actions and ensuring compliance with laws and regulations. Prior to his appointment, Victor served for 11 years with the Illinois Attorney General’s Office, including three years as deputy bureau chief in the Special Prosecutions Bureau. While there, he handled complex criminal and financial investigations. Victor earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and received his Juris Doctor from Saint Louis University School of Law.
- Frank Ronis will serve as chief of examinations, overseeing department’s efforts to examine the books, records and sales practices of Illinois-registered investment firms to assess compliance under state and federal laws. Frank began his securities career as an examiner with the Illinois Securities Department, followed by more than two decades as a senior examiner with the Securities & Exchange Commission. He holds a B.B.A. degree from Roosevelt University, an M.B.A. from Dominican University and is a certified fraud examiner.
- Jordan Frieberg assumes the role of senior securities investigator with the department. As an investigator, Jordan conducts complex investigations of possible violations of the anti-fraud provisions of the Illinois Securities Law. Jordan has extensive expertise related to cyber and crypto fraud, including a deep understanding of the new forms of technology that scammers leverage to swindle Illinois residents. Jordan has been responsible for taking down numerous fraudulent websites that had attempted to scam investors through the sale of fake investments. Jordan spent nearly three years as an investigator with the Arizona Securities Division. He earned a master’s degree from Michigan State University in law enforcement intelligence and analysis, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota in criminal justice.

Illinois Secretary of State Office in Melrose Park Offers an Abundance of Important Services

- **Address Change**
- **Administrative Hearings Officer**
- **Commercial Drivers License**
 - Duplicate/Corrected
 - Renewal
 - Vision Screening
- **Disability Placards**
 - Temporary First Time Issuance
 - Temporary Replacement
- **Drivers License**
 - Duplicate/Corrected
 - First Time Issuance
 - Instruction Permit Duplicate/Corrected
 - Instruction Permit First Time Issuance
 - Instruction Permit Renewal
 - Motorcycle Road Test
 - Motorcycle Written Test
 - Non-Visa Temporary Visitors (TVDL)
 - Renewal
 - Road Test
 - REAL ID
 - Vision Screening

- **Drivers License**
 - Written Test
- **License Plates**
 - Renewal Stickers
 - Sticker Replacement
- **Non Sufficient Funds**
- **Non-CDL Road Test**
- **Non-CDL Written Test**
- **Organ Donor Registry**
- **Reinstatement Fees**
 - Discretionary Suspension (Traffic related)
 - Failure to Appear Suspension
 - Parking Suspension
 - Tollway/Automated Traffic Suspension
- **State ID**
 - Duplicate/Corrected
 - First Time Issuance
 - Renewal
 - REAL ID

- **Vehicle**
 - Registration Renewal
 - Sticker Replacement
 - Seven-Day Drive Away Permits
 - Titles
- **Voter Registration Applications**

The Illinois Secretary of State Office is located at 1903 N. Mannheim Rd. Melrose Park.

For more information, visit www.ilsos.gov.

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

Alexi Giannoulas
Secretary of State





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

Treasurer Frerichs Makes Record \$1.57 Billion In Investment Earnings for State Portfolio During FY25

Nearly \$1 Billion for Cities, School Districts Through Illinois Funds

The State Treasurer's Office made a record \$1.57 billion in investment earnings from the state investment portfolio during Fiscal Year 2025, Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs announced recently.

Treasurer Frerichs is the state's chief investment and banking officer. He is responsible for investing state revenue in the state investment portfolio.

"Every dollar we earn in interest for the people of Illinois is a dollar that lawmakers don't have to raise in taxes," Frerichs said. "We are trying to maximize earnings for our state."

Also in Fiscal Year 2025, the Treasurer's Office made \$998 million in gross investment earnings for cities, villages, school districts, counties and other units of government that take part in the highly rated Illinois Funds local government investment pool the State Treasurer's Office operates. The Illinois Funds has received the highest rating of AAA from Fitch, a national credit ratings agency.

"Working with local government to earn cities and school districts more through smart, safe investing helps at a time when costs are rising," he said.

Under state law, the Treasurer's Office is prohibited from directly investing the state's portfolio in the stock market. Treasurer Frerichs convinced the General Assembly to allow his office to invest in secure local government bonds, such as those issued by Illinois school districts to purchase land or erect buildings, and prime money market funds that emphasize security and liquidity.

Under Frerichs, the Treasurer's Office has improved returns by increasing the average weighted maturity of our investments, which was made possible by a healthier fiscal situation in our state and by working with the governor and General Assembly on innovative ideas.

Key monthly metrics and more are available in The Vault, the transparency website that allows Illinois residents to see how the State Treasurer's Office is working for them. The site is at iltreasurervault.com.

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs Returns WW II Purple Heart, Bronze Star to Late Chicago Soldier's Family in Downstate Marion

Operation Purple Heart Finds 16th Family Whose Military Honors Were Missing for Years

Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs recently returned a lost Purple Heart medal to the grand-niece of a World War II veteran who earned it while fighting the Germans in Italy.

Frerichs reunited Army Private Stephen J. Grabowski's military medals with grand-niece Chrystal Cantrell during a ceremony at VFW Post 1301 in Marion.

It is the 16th lost medal Frerichs has returned as part of Operation Purple Heart, an unprecedented mission to reunite lost medals with the rightful owners. The iconic military honor is given to individuals wounded or killed during military combat.

"Private Grabowski sacrificed a great deal to stop an evil dictator and ensure a free world," Frerichs said. "It is never too late to honor the sacrifices of the Greatest Generation."

On April 15, 1945, during the closing days of active fighting in Europe, Grabowski and thousands of others participated in Operation Grapeshot, the final Allied attack during the Italian Campaign. Grabowski was a rifleman in Company B, 473rd Infantry. He was 27 and serving in his third year in the military when a German grenade struck his bunker and buried him under debris as his unit advanced in Italy. Grabowski was paralyzed from the waist down.

A few weeks later, Germany surrendered to Allied Forces on May 7, 1945. Three months later, Japan fell and the war ended.

Grabowski, the son of Polish immigrants in Chicago, returned home the following year and lived at Hines VA Hospital, where he died of kidney failure in 1974. He was 56 years old.

Treasurer Frerichs also returned Grabowski's Bronze Star; European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; Good Conduct Medal; American Campaign Medal; and World War II Victory Medal. The medals were in a bank safe deposit box owned by Grabowski's oldest nephew, who is in poor health and lives in a nursing home in Chicago. Cantrell, Grabowski's grand-niece who lives near Marion, accepted the honors on behalf of the family.

"Knowing the sacrifices my great-uncle and so many others made on behalf of this country is amazing," Cantrell said. "We must always remember we enjoy the freedoms we have because someone else stood up and did the right thing."

The contents of the safe deposit box were turned over to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office in 2010 after it had not been touched for several years.



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.

This is the 16th Purple Heart medal that Treasurer Frerichs has returned to the soldier or the soldier’s family, an unparalleled record in Illinois and the nation. A list of unclaimed Purple Heart medals in possession of the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office is available online.

“If you recognize a name, please reach out to their family. This is an honor that deserves to be in their loving hands, not the cold, dark vault of my safe,” Frerichs said. “You also can contact my office through 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.

Illinois Treasurer Frerichs Marks Bright Start’s 25th Anniversary with Record Growth During College Savings Month

As Bright Start 529 turns 25, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs is announcing record asset growth to more than \$14 billion for Illinois’ flagship 529 College Savings Plan.

The news comes as the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office kicked off College Savings Month, which occurs in September. Sponsored and launched by the state of Illinois in the year 2000, the Bright Start 529 College Savings Plan is designed for higher education savings. Treasurer Frerichs also sponsors Bright Directions, a 529 plan for families who prefer to work with a financial advisor. Over the past 25 years, more than 250,000 students have used their IL 529 college savings funds to attend hundreds of universities, colleges, trade schools, vocational programs and apprenticeships.

“Parents can sleep better at night knowing they’re prepared to pay for future education when the time comes,” Treasurer Frerichs said. “As a father of two toddlers, I know firsthand how long those sleepless nights can be. Bright Start 529 is how Illinois creates a college-going culture and helps Illinois families confidently plan for the future.”

Earning National Recognition as a Top-Rated 529 Plan

As of July 31, 2025, the plan had over 327,000 accounts with \$14 billion assets under management. This year alone, 22,000 accounts have been opened and all account owners have contributed about \$800 million for college savings. The numbers speak for themselves.

The combined IL 529 college savings plans count more than \$22B in assets.

Throughout the years, Bright Start 529 has been recognized as a leader in the 529 industry. Morningstar, an investment research company, recently rated Bright Start 529 as a top choice for education savers today. CNBC.com called Bright Start 529 one of “the best college savings plans in the nation.” And *Business Insider* hailed Bright Start 529 as “a top-rated 529 plan.”

“As one of five gold-rated 529 plans in the country,” said Treasurer Frerichs, “Illinois families can invest in Bright Start 529 with confidence. Bright Start is one of the nation’s biggest and best 529 plans, and we plan to keep growing until all Illinois families are saving for their kids’ future educational expenses.”

The Bright Start 529 Advantage ... Bright Start 529 Offers a Variety of Benefits

- Unique tax advantages: Tax-deferred growth and 100% tax-free withdrawals for qualified expenses. Illinois taxpayers can also reduce their state taxable income by up to \$20,000 per year when married and filing jointly or up to \$10,000 when filing individually.
- Range of investment portfolios: Professionally managed investment portfolios to fit your life situation, risk tolerance, and savings goals.
- Flexible: Families can pay for a range of qualified higher educational expenses to eligible schools nationwide or transfer funds to eligible beneficiaries.
- Low fees and expenses: Bright Start 529 is among the lowest cost 529 plans in the country, which can mean more money for college.

“We kept coming back to Bright Start given how well it's performed and its reputation. It's professionally managed, so we can trust that we don't need to watch it every day. The cost savings are great and it's less expensive than other funds we researched,” said Marlén Cortez Morris of Chicago.

About Bright Start 529

The Bright Start Direct-Sold 529 College Savings Program (“Bright Start 529”) and the Bright Directions Advisor-Guided 529 College Savings Program (“Bright Directions 529”) are part of the Illinois College Savings Pool and are designed to qualify as qualified tuition programs under the provisions of Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. Bright Start 529 and Bright Directions 529 are sponsored by the state of Illinois and administered by the Illinois state treasurer, as trustee.

TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI), serves as the Bright Start 529 plan manager. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, Member FINRA, serves as distributor and underwriter for Bright Start 529. Union Bank & Trust Company serves as program manager, and Northern Trust Securities, Inc. acts as distributor of the advisor-sold plan. Investments in Bright Start and Bright Directions are not guaranteed or insured by the state of Illinois; the Illinois state treasurer; TFI; Union Bank & Trust Company; Northern Trust Securities, Inc.; the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; or any other entity.

An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses associated with municipal fund securities before investing. This and other important information is contained in the fund prospectuses and the Bright Start Program Disclosure Statement and Bright Directions Program Disclosure Statement, which can be obtained from your financial professional, on BrightStart.com and BrightDirections.com, and should be read carefully before investing. You can lose money by investing in a portfolio. Each of the portfolios involves investment risks, which are described in the Program Disclosure Statement.

An investor should consider, before investing, whether the investor’s or designated beneficiary’s home state offers any state tax or other benefits, such as financial aid, scholarship funds and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state’s 529 plan. Investors should consult a tax advisor.

If you’d like more information, please contact Jenna Jaynes of Swanson Russell at (402) 437-6406.

Everyone Has the Right to Live Where They Choose

In the exercise of its power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals and welfare, it is declared to be the public policy of the village to assure fair housing and freedom from discrimination throughout the community, to protect the community from the effects of residential segregation by race, color, religion, sex, physical or mental handicap, familial status or national origin, and to secure to its citizens the economic, social, and professional benefits of living in an integrated and stable society.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Administers The Federal Fair Housing Act

Every first Monday of the month the Fair Housing Review Board meets at 6 p.m. in the Village of Melrose Park (1000 N. 25th Ave.). If you feel you have been discriminated in any way while renting, purchasing or selling a home you are welcome to attend our meetings to present your case.

Village of Melrose Park
Brian Miller, Office of the Village Attorney
(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4487



*Village of
Melrose Park*



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

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



NEWS FROM WALTHER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

[WWW.WALTHER.COM](http://www.WALTHER.COM)

It Feels Good to Be "Home ... Coming!"

On the heels of a decisive 36-0 football victory over Westmont during their Homecoming the previous Friday, our Broncos carried that momentum into our own Spirit Week with contagious energy and joy. Students showed their creativity through daily themes like Pajama Day and Twin Day, filling our halls with laughter and unity. We came together outdoors for a barbecue lunch and campfire worship service, followed by an exciting pep rally that showcased our school spirit.



Dr. Terence Swims

Friday evening, our Alumni Dinner brought generations of Broncos together around the table to reminisce on the past and be inspired for our future. Our band and choir filled the room with music that stirred our hearts at the Alumni Concert. Saturday's Homecoming Brunch was jam packed with both people and joy as we celebrated our newest inductees into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Though our Homecoming game was a tough one, our students refused to let it dull their spirit, ending the week with an electric Homecoming Dance that boasted Bronco Pride on full display.

We are grateful for the rich history and legacy that continue to shape Walther Christian Academy. With every victory, challenge and celebration, we're building upon that foundation and looking boldly toward the future together!

God bless and keep our Walther family! It's a great day to be a Bronco!

• Dr. Terence Swims, Principal

Walther Alumni and Friends Stepped Up and Showed Up!



Bill Koehne

On Sept. 12, Walther recognized its 71st birthday with our second annual Day of Giving. 50 donors contributed more than \$10,000 through this event to support our students and teachers. Thank you to all who participated.

Homecoming Weekend brought many alumni together for several special events. On Friday evening, more than two dozen former choir and band members participated in our Alumni Concert filled with wonderful music. On Saturday morning, we hosted around 130 guests for our Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony. And, on Saturday evening, reunions for the Classes of 1970, 1975, 1982-1986 and 2005 brought well over 100 friends together in four different locations.

Even if you could not make it to Walther that weekend, know that you are always welcome here. Come see a sporting event, the fall play or the Christmas Concert. Or, stop by during a school day. We would love to show you around the building.

• Bill Koehne '87, Director of Advancement

Walther Students Help to Feed Starving Children Around the World!

Each year on the Friday of Homecoming Week, all students and teachers participate in a Christian Service Day. Grouped by Spiritual Family, projects are done here at Walther and around the community.

With the help of two Thrivent Action Grants, approximately 90 people which included six Walther Spiritual Families and several adult volunteers, went to Schaumburg to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children. This Christian organization works through missionary partners in approximately 70 countries around the world. Over the course of two hours, our group packed an estimated 87 boxes of food which is enough to feed approximately 50 children for an entire year.

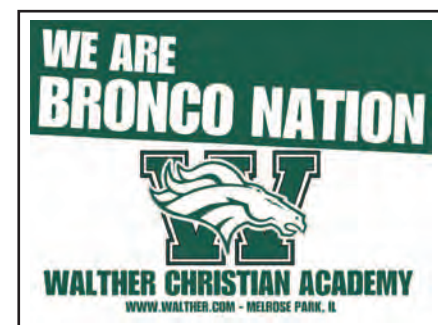
The entire Walther family contributed to this remarkable cause. Through our MLB Push to the Playoffs, NFL Kickoff and NBA Kickoff fundraising days, we were able to donate \$505 which will also provide five children one meal (possibly their only meal) each day for an entire year.

Walther teacher and project coordinator, Cindy Holliday, shared, "It was an amazing experience for us to know that we would be making a difference in the lives of children and helping to spread our savior's love to those in orphanages, schools, clinics and refugee camps across the globe."

If you wish to learn more or make a donation to this extraordinary organization, please go to www.fmsc.org.

Help Us Promote Walther We Are BRONCO NATION!

Do you live in the area? Are you willing to display a yard sign? We have new signs available. Stop by the school office, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., to pick one up and then share your story when someone asks.



Walther Alumni Spotlight

Fred Rose, Walther Class of 2007, is the head of U.S. Wealth Management Banking and Lending for RBC Wealth Management, while also leading the firm's Strategy Group. After graduating from Coe College in 2011 with a B.A. in business administration, Fred worked for Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley Wealth Management before co-founding Supernova Technology, a leading financial technology provider of securities-based lending solutions. Supernova is now used by most of the top wealth management firms and banks in the U.S. While with Supernova, he consulted with RBC and in 2018 was hired by them as head of credit before moving into his current position. Earlier this year, Fred was recognized by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal* as one of their 2025 40 Under 40 for his role leading two of the firm's leading revenue generating divisions. He also serves on the board for the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. Fred lives in Edina, Minnesota, with his wife Melissa and their two boys, Max and Liam.



Fred Rose

While at Coe College, Fred's senior year found him captaining the men's basketball team, as well as taking on a wealth management internship as he prepared for life after college. He found that he really understood the human connection in this business and that he had a passion for helping people be better with their money. The skills he learned as an advisor led to the opportunity with founding a technology company and those skills led him to RBC. Fred shared that his advice to others is, "Find something you are good at and keep getting better at it. Take the opportunity to learn from what you have done and keep expanding on what you're good at. Have a growth mindset."

When asked how Walther helped set him up for success, Fred did not hesitate. "Walther encourages and supports its students to try everything. What makes Walther so special is that you need the whole team (faculty, staff, parents, etc.) to embrace this and they do. There are a lot of places that say they want multi-sport athletes, but they really don't. At Walther, you cannot only be a three-sport athlete, but also play in the jazz band, sing in Christian Minstrels and participate in the drama performances. They put you in positions to grow not only in these areas, but as you balance all of these things you learn to figure it out. Being on stage and having to improvise when someone forgets their line has helped me when making high pressure presentations in my job."

"I also learned a lot of life skills at Walther. I still recall the day my sophomore year when I got called to Mr. Gillingham's office. Even though I grew up at Walther, I was still fearful walking into his office. He wanted to know why I had left before the post-game meeting without saying anything even though I had just been called up to the team for the state tournament and had not played. I told him I needed to get to the dress rehearsal for the spring musical. He said, "Just ask for what you need, even when it's hard or uncomfortable. You'll be respected more for asking." I think of that often when I need to advocate for something at work.

These are the reasons such a small school has produced so many successful alumni. Walther is a really special place.

Fred cited many favorite memories from his senior year, including a regional championship in basketball, taking third in state in baseball and being a lead in the spring musical. But when asked about how Walther deepened his faith, he replied, "It is the overall experience that I miss. The constant reminder that God is there, in good times and bad. Chapel, camaraderie with teammates, praying before and after any event. It was so important that I carry it on."

"There were many at Walther who were instrumental in molding me into who I have become. Mr. Gillingham, Coach Bo, Mr. Rose, the list goes on and on. I stand on those shoulders in what I do and who I am today."

Walther Student Spotlight

This past summer, Walther senior, Jason Nguyen, worked on a project through Teens in Health, a nonprofit network of teens working to remove barriers in scientific research and medical advocacy. The eight-week research project was done individually from home with the guidance of four advisors. Online meetings every Monday with advisors, and workshops every Friday to learn and improve skills within scientific writing kept the project moving. Tuesday through Thursday was filled with literature reviews and writing.

Jason chose to study possible treatments of Long COVID. Initially he planned to do a research article, but the challenge of presenting something new was too much. He then shifted to focusing on a literature review instead. Jason, who plans to study chemical engineering in college, shared, "It was the first time I have done scientific writing, so that was challenging. Experiencing the research process will help me in college. The AP Statistics course I took last year certainly aided my understanding of the articles I reviewed."

Jason's article *A Comprehensive Guide on Long COVID and Potential Treatments* was published on Sept. 10 in the *Teens in Health: Human Disease & Treatment Journal 2025 Edition (Vol 2)*. If you are interested in reading his article, you can find it at the following link, beginning on Page 49 – <https://teensinhealth.org/ourpublications/2025/9/10/human-disease-and-treatment-journal-vol-2>.

Congratulations, Jason, on this remarkable accomplishment.



Jason Nguyen

Upcoming Walther Events

Girls Volleyball – IHSA Regionals @ Walther Oct. 27-30

Fall Play, *The Book Women* – Nov. 7 @ 7 p.m. • Nov. 8 @ 7 p.m. • Nov. 9 @ 2:30 p.m.

Christmas Concert – Dec. 12 @ 7 p.m.

Bronco Benefit 2026 – Saturday, Feb. 21 @ The Nineteenth Century Club, Oak Park

For more information on Walther events, please call (708) 344-0404.



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***

Weekly Programs at Camp Reinberg – Tuesday, Oct. 28 • 9 a.m.

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

Love art and nature? Join the Deer Grove Nature Artists! BYO art supplies. All artists welcome.

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

Online registration required at <https://www.meetup.com/deer-grove-nature-artists/>.

Fall Ceramics – Wednesday, Oct. 29 • 5:30 p.m.

Thatcher Woods Pavilion (Chicago Avenue, West of Thatcher Avenue, River Forest)

Create a leaf impression bowl out of clay and learn why leaves change colors. Ages 13 and up.

Cost – Free.

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

Nature's Art Box – Thursday, Oct. 30 • 10:30 a.m.

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

Come join us for a nature-based art activity. Ages 3-6 w/adult.

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

Fall Ceramics – Thursday, Oct. 30 • 5:30 p.m.

Swallow Cliff Woods-North

(Calumet Sag Road/Route 83, West of La Grange Road/96th Avenue, Near Palos Park)

Create a leaf impression bowl out of clay and learn why leaves change colors. Ages 13 and up.

Cost – Free.

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

Bison on the Trail – Saturday, Nov. 1-Saturday, Nov. 8

Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)

Celebrate National Bison Day by looking for bison, decorated by the community, on our trails.

Cost – Free. Contact – (847) 381-6592.

Fishing Derby – Saturday, Nov. 1 • 8 a.m.

Horsetail Lake (104th Avenue, North of McCarthy Road, Near Palos Park)

Join the village of Palos Park and the Forest Preserves for a family-fun day of fishing.

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

Native American Bead & Cord Workshop – Saturday, Nov. 1 • 10 a.m.

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

Learn traditional bead and cord making by Native American Artists from the Trickster Cultural Center. All materials provided.

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

Queen's Quest – Saturday, Nov. 1 • 1 p.m.

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

Little is known about overwintering bumblebees, so let's help science by participating in the Queens Quest Survey.

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

Owl-o-ween Prowl – Saturday, Nov. 1 • 6 p.m.

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

Join us for a not-so-spooky night. Learn about and search for these predators of the night. Candy provided. Costumes encouraged!

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

Dia de los Muertos Celebration – Saturday, Nov. 1 • 6 p.m.

Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)

Join us for Dia de los Muertos! Enjoy music, crafts and a special ofrenda display. Feel free to bring a photo of your cherished pet to honor their memory.

Cost – Free. Contact – (847) 381-6592 (registration required, call for information).

Makin’ Music Bluegrass Jam – Sunday, Nov. 2 • 1 p.m.

Thatcher Woods Pavilion (Chicago Avenue, West of Thatcher Avenue, River Forest)

Create a musical instrument or bring your own and join the jam! All are welcome to play or listen. Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 366-6530.

GPS Scavenger Hunt – Sunday, Nov. 2 • 2 p.m.

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

Learn about and participate in a technology inspired scavenger hunt. Limited spaces, call to reserve an hourly time slot. Register by Oct. 31.

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

Waterfowl Watch – Monday, Nov. 3 • 8:30 a.m.

Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)

See migrating waterfowl on some of the wetlands. Ages 13 and up. Binoculars provided.

Cost – Free. Contact – (847) 381-6592.

Senior Fitness Walk – Wednesday, Nov. 5 • 9 a.m.

Thatcher Woods Pavilion (Chicago Avenue, West of Thatcher Avenue, River Forest)

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

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

Children’s Storytime – Wednesday, Nov. 5 • 9:30 a.m.

Thatcher Woods Pavilion (Chicago Avenue, West of Thatcher Avenue, River Forest)

Listen to a nature-themed children’s book, followed by an activity. (Story provided orally and in ASL.)

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

Beavers by Moonlight – Thursday, Nov. 6 • 7:45 p.m.

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

Search for beavers using moonlight.

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

Nature Story Trail “Giving Thanks” by Chief Jake Swamp – Friday, Nov. 7-Monday, Dec. 1

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

Walk a short trail while reading the posted story. Afterwards, stop in to pick up a take-home craft and activities. Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 366-6530.

Conservation@Home: Seed Swap – Saturday, Nov. 8 • 9 a.m.

Thatcher Woods Pavilion (Chicago Avenue, West of Thatcher Avenue, River Forest)

Bring some seeds and/or take some seeds home at this free swap. Experts will be available for advice.

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

Nature Drawing Practice – Sunday, Nov. 9 • 1:30 p.m.

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

Learn common techniques to improve your drawing skills and train your artistic eye using nature references. Ages 18 and up.

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

Bird Walk – Saturday, Nov. 15 • 8 a.m.

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

Learn about fall bird migration patterns and look for local and migrant birds. Limited supply of binoculars available for loan at select events.

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

No Compass? No Problem! – Saturday, Nov. 15 • 10:30 a.m.

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

Learn about and practice different way-finding techniques without using a compass, so you can always find your way! Ages 13 and up.

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

Restoration Workday – Sunday, Nov. 16 • 9 a.m.

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

Help us restore our natural communities of woodland and prairie. Gloves, tools and light refreshment provided. Adults, and 12 and up w/adult.

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

Online registration required at <https://volunteer-fpdcc.givepulse.com/event/419785-trailside-museum-stewardship-volunteer-days>.

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!

BOO! At the Zoo

Zoowide/Now-Oct. 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!

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



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!

Find out more about Tree Trim at <https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/TreeTrim> and make this holiday season unforgettable.



Veterans Day Celebration

Discovery Center/Tuesday, Nov. 11 • 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

To honor the men and women who have proudly served our nation, Brookfield Zoo Chicago invites the public to a special Veterans Day ceremony at the Discovery Center.

Schedule of Activities at Discovery Center

11 a.m.-2 p.m. – A display of military memorabilia and vehicles.

– Learn about various services offered to veterans from veteran organizations, such as Honor Flight, Tails of Redemption and others.

11-11:30 a.m. – Meet ambassador animals.

Noon-12:45 p.m. – Enjoy a performance by the Legacy Girls.

12:45-1 p.m. – See the posting of colors and a performance of the national anthem.

1-1:10 p.m. – Welcoming remarks. 1:15-1:50 p.m. – Performance by the Jesse White Tumblers.

2-2:30 p.m. – Meet and greet with other veterans and representatives from veteran organizations.

2:30 p.m. – Retiring the colors.



To show appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the men and women in the United States Armed Forces, Brookfield Zoo Chicago offers free admission to all active, reservist and retired members of the military every day. Qualified personnel who present a valid ID at one of the zoo's admission booths will be admitted free of charge.

Reindeer Run

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

Gather your family, friends and holiday cheer, and join us on Saturday, Nov. 15, for the Reindeer Run. With a 2-mile course entirely within Brookfield Zoo Chicago, "fun run" under the lights while being one of the first to see Holiday Magic! Space is limited, don't wait to register! All registered Reindeer Run participants will receive a commemorative Reindeer Run winter hat with registration. 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>.



Brookfield Zoo Chicago Debuts New *Dolphin Discovery* Show at Dolphin Bay

Brookfield Zoo Chicago is making a splash with a new dolphin show called *Dolphin Discovery* at the newly named Dolphin Bay. The beloved attraction has been transformed into a mission-forward show that invites guests to connect more deeply with bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), the animal care specialists who care for them and the conservation scientists who protect these dolphins in the wild.

During every show, *Dolphin Discovery* introduces guests to each dolphin's unique personality and communication style in real time. Reimagined with new technology and innovations, it weaves in meaningful guest connections with live demonstrations and the first-ever video integration. The show now features never-before-seen footage from the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program (SDRP) on cinematic 18-foot LED screens on both sides of the stadium. Guests will hear about dolphins that call Sarasota Bay home from Dr. Randy Wells, the world-renowned dolphin research scientist who co-founded SDRP in 1970 and has published more than 340 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on marine mammals.

"*Dolphin Discovery* at Dolphin Bay is a new way for guests to meet the dolphins and learn about both their care and the field science that guides it," said Mark Gonka, director of Marine Mammal Care and Conservation at Brookfield Zoo Chicago. "With state-of-the-art screens, we're able to connect guests with the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program and bring real conservation science to the show in a way we've never done before. They'll leave inspired by the dolphins and see how choices in Chicago help protect dolphins in the Gulf."

The new show is not the only major change. Guests now enter Dolphin Bay, as the historic Seven Seas habitat has been renamed to recognize native habitats for bottlenose dolphins and the zoo's long-standing support for these wild populations through SDRP – the world's longest-running dolphin conservation research initiative for advancing understanding of bottlenose dolphin behavior, reproduction, health and human impacts. SDRP's operations and research are focused on the marine ecosystem of Sarasota Bay, which is home to a thriving community of about 170 year-round resident dolphins. Through its documentation of six generations of dolphins in Sarasota Bay, SDRP has found that dolphins live in communities – a pioneering insight for conservation efforts now recognized in the new habitat name at Brookfield Zoo Chicago.

The new *Dolphin Discovery* show is scheduled daily, 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., through Nov. 19. It will then be available daily at 11:30 a.m., on Mondays through Wednesdays in November and December. Additional information about dolphin experiences during Holiday Magic will be announced at a later date. All show dates and times subject to change.

Tickets and more information are available at brookfieldzoo.org/dolphindiscovery.

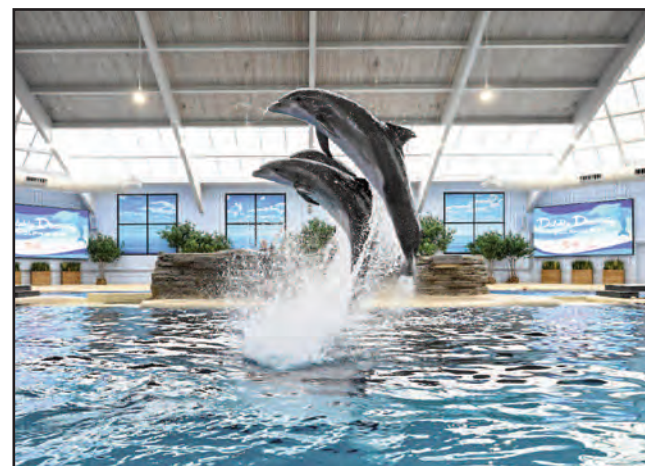


Photo credit – © Brookfield Zoo Chicago.

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.

The Cheer is Here – Holiday Lights Are Back!

Celebrate the Holiday Season with ComEd!

We are Delighted to Sponsor Dazzling Holiday Light Shows Across Northern Illinois

Find out more about breathtaking, energy-efficient displays on our website (<https://www.comed.com/>) and see how you can add some sparkle to your holiday experience. Be sure to visit our Energy Efficiency Booth for interactive activities, giveaways and a chance to learn about sustainable lighting options. This year, brighten your holidays and create memories that will last a lifetime!

Here's some details that'll get you started on your festive journey!

Special Offers on Holiday Light Attractions

ComEd is proud to partner with local nonprofit organizations each holiday season to provide customers with discounts and information on area attractions. Join us at one of our many sponsored attractions for a chance to see spectacular displays of LED lights, engage with our Energy Efficiency Team and enjoy the magic of the holidays.

Please check the websites of the events below for more information on how to comply with all rules and protocols of the venue.



Holiday Magic at Brookfield Zoo

Holiday Magic has been Chicagoland's largest and longest-running lights festival for over 40 years! Featuring over 2 million LED lights, this spectacular display transforms the zoo into a dazzling winter wonderland. Stroll through glowing pathways, enjoy festive decorations and experience the magic that has made this event a beloved holiday tradition in Chicagoland for over four decades!

ComEd is a proud presenting sponsor of Holiday Magic and is offering a \$10 discount on admission for our customers – details are listed.

- Offer valid only on Nov. 21, 22, 29 and 30, and Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 and 20.
- The offer does not apply to previously ordered tickets.
- Tickets are nonrefundable and all sales are final.
- Parking is not included and must be purchased at time of reservation.
- The discount is automatically applied – no special code is needed.
- Entry at the North Gate only.
- Check out <https://visits.czs.org/webstore/shop/viewItems.aspx> to access the discount.

Be sure to visit our Energy Efficiency Team on Nov. 21, 22, 29 and 30, and December 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 and 20, for fun LED giveaways.

Holiday Magic runs from Nov. 21, 2025-Jan. 4, 2026. Tickets are currently available for purchase.

Illumination Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum (Lisle, Illinois)

Come celebrate the winter holiday season at the 13th annual Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum. Be amazed by how light, color and music transform a magnificent landscape of trees. This year, Illumination features the new larger-than-life *Vivid Creatures* by artists Heather and Fez BeGaetz, with four colorful animal sculptures included among 19 immersive light displays, highlighting the beauty of trees in winter along an ADA-accessible, 1-mile walking trail.

ComEd is proud to be a presenting sponsor of Illumination and will be offering a \$5 discount on admission to our customers.

Be sure to visit our Energy Efficiency Team at Illumination on Nov. 15, and Dec. 7, 12 and 20, where you can enjoy fun LED giveaways.

Illumination is open on select nights Nov. 15, 2025-Jan. 3, 2026.

ZooLights at Lincoln Park Zoo (Chicago)

ZooLights at Lincoln Park Zoo has been Chicago's holiday tradition for 31 years! ComEd is proud to be a co-presenting sponsor of this one-of-a-kind, festive holiday experience that offers a merry, family-oriented tradition in the heart of the city. ZooLights twinkles with more than 3 million lights, hundreds of nostalgic LED displays and festive experiences that capture the magic of the season. Step into a world of sparkle and shine as you stroll through the dazzling holiday light tunnel. Take a ride on the iconic ferris wheel and catch some of the best views of the Chicago skyline amid twinkling lights. Indulge in hot chocolate, snack on fresh churros or roast s'mores on an open fire.

Be sure to visit our Energy Efficiency Team on Nov. 21 and 29, and Dec. 6, 11, 13, 18 and 20, for fun LED giveaways.

ZooLights is open Nov. 21, 2025-Jan. 4, 2026, on select dates. Tickets are currently available for purchase for the general public. Mondays are free with advanced registration.

Lightscape at Chicago Botanic Garden (Glencoe)

Join the Chicago Botanic Garden at their popular holiday event, Lightscape, returning to set the garden aglow with dazzling lights, curated displays and lively music. Experience the region's brightest, boldest and most unforgettable festive trail. Bundle up, grab a hot chocolate and see the Chicago Botanic Garden glow beyond the expected. ComEd is proud to return as a sponsor of this after-dark, illuminated trail.

Be sure to visit our Energy Efficiency Team on Dec. 14 and 18 for fun LED giveaways.

Lightscape runs Nov. 14, 2025-Jan. 4, 2026. Tickets are on sale now.

For tickets and more information on celebrating the holiday season with ComEd, visit <https://www.chicagobotanic.org/lightscape>

Stroll on State (Rockford)

GoRockford will host the 13th annual Stroll on State, Rockford's holiday celebration, featuring a parade, fireworks, tree lighting, musical performances, surprise visits from Santa and so much more! Stroll on State is about experiencing the awe and wonder of what a community can do together.

ComEd is proud to sponsor Stroll on State, which is free and open to the public. The experience is on Nov. 29, 2025.

ComEd Powering the Holidays Program

Recognizing the power holidays can have on a community, each year, ComEd partners with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to award grants of up to \$2,500 to northern Illinois communities as part of the ComEd Powering the Holidays Program. The grant program was established to celebrate community identity and culture, and provide an opportunity for intercultural exchange and understanding by supporting local community light events during the holiday season. These events are open to the public.

This Year, ComEd Customers Who Qualify for LIHEAP Grants, Automatically Get Enrolled in ComEd's Low-Income Discount Program that Becomes Available Next Year

ComEd joined community leaders and stakeholders at the Community and Economic Development Association (CEDA) of Cook County, Inc. recently to call attention to the launch of the new application period for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The announcement was hosted at the North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN), a cornerstone of the North Lawndale community, widely recognized for its leadership in workforce development and its role in connecting families to essential programs, such as LIHEAP.

LIHEAP is a key resource for customers in need of bill support and builds on ComEd's comprehensive suite of customer assistance programs which, so far this year, have helped connect 140,000 customers to more than \$72 million in financial and other assistance.

Applications are now available for households most in need of assistance, including adults aged 60 and older, individuals with disabilities, families with at least one child under age 5 and people who have been disconnected or may face imminent disconnection. Beginning Nov. 1, all income-eligible households can apply. Other eligibility details, including an online Request for Services Form, are available at helpillinoisfamilies.com.

"ComEd remains committed to partnering with local organizations like CEDA, local government and community advocates to deliver vital financial support to those who need it most," said Melissa Washington, ComEd's senior vice president of Government, Regulatory and External Affairs. "The availability of LIHEAP Grants, combined with ComEd's comprehensive suite of customer assistance programs, will help provide meaningful relief to hundreds of thousands of customers each year."

LIHEAP, administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) accepts applications for one-time payments made directly to energy service providers on behalf of recipients. This year's program expands income eligibility, with households qualifying if they earn at or below 60% of the state's median income. For a family of four, that is an annual gross income maximum of \$76,884, or \$6,407 a month.

"As utility costs rise, I encourage eligible families to apply for support through LIHEAP," said DCEO Director Kristin Richards. "This cost-saving program has helped over 340,000 households per year in the past and will continue to provide critical assistance to Illinois families who need it the most."

To make it easier for customers to access ComEd support options, the company works with community action agencies, like CEDA of Cook County, to help connect customers with bill-assistance options that get them back on track.

"By expanding income guidelines, we are opening the door for thousands more families across Cook County to receive the LIHEAP energy assistance they need," said Harold Rice, CEDA's president & CEO, one of the agencies that administers LIHEAP and other utility assistance programs in Cook County. "For many households living paycheck to paycheck, this change means the difference between stability and uncertainty. At CEDA, we are proud to work alongside the state of Illinois and partners like ComEd to ensure that more of our neighbors can keep their lights on, their homes warm and their families safe this winter."

ComEd Bill-Assistance Options

The launch of the new LIHEAP funding season adds to the housing, employment and education support offered by CEDA, along with ComEd's existing slate of programs that can help customers manage their energy costs and the Low-Income Discount (LID) Program scheduled to launch in January 2026. ComEd customers who are approved for LIHEAP Grants through Dec. 31 are automatically enrolled in next year's LID, which will provide income-eligible customers with a flat monthly discount on their energy bills, reducing the long-term energy burden for those most in need.

The growing suite of bill assistance options ComEd makes available to customers includes:

- ComEd's Supplemental Arrearage Reduction (SARP), which is available to ComEd residential customers who qualify to receive energy-assistance benefits from LIHEAP.
- Catch Up and Save: A two-part program that provides monthly credits to an eligible customer's bill to eliminate past-due balances, as well as a free energy savings kit – while supplies last – to help families save on future energy bills. Each kit includes home products designed to help lower home energy use while improving the efficiency of the home.
- A flexible deferred payment arrangement of up to 12 months for eligible residential customers with past-due balances. Make a down payment on the amount owed and pay the rest through installments in addition to your regular monthly bill.
- Budget billing, which provides a predictable monthly amount due based on your electricity usage for the last 12 months.
- Flexible payment options like 21-day extensions on a customer's due date.
- High-usage alerts, which let customers know when their usage is trending higher than normal to help manage overall energy use, and energy-management tips to save money now and on future energy bills.
- Community solar allows customers to participate in the benefits of clean solar energy without installing panels on their own homes. Participants subscribe to a solar energy project and earn credits on their monthly utility bills for their portion of the energy produced by the solar project.
- Energy-efficiency offerings, including services and incentives designed for income-eligible residential customers which can help reduce energy use now and in the future.

Customers can visit ComEd.com/BillSupport to learn more about and enroll in programs to help them with their current and future energy bills.

Nicor Gas – Building a Sustainable Future

Here's Some Substantial Details About Our Commitment ...

Sustainability

Sustainability is embedded in our ethos. We believe that affordable, reliable, safe and increasingly clean energy is the foundation for improving the lives of people and the communities we serve, driving economic equity and enabling progress for a better future. Nicor Gas is fueling innovation, investing in communities and businesses to strengthen our region and the state.

We are exploring new partnerships and technologies that will not only reduce our own environmental footprint, but help our customers do the same. Environmental stewardship is not new to us. Caring for the environment while continuously fortifying system reliability, safety and delivery of clean, affordable energy is an integral piece of our company's history and culture. We work closely with our state commission to strategically invest in our infrastructure, meet or exceed regulatory requirements and work with organizations to protect and enhance green space for the communities where we live, work and play.

Natural gas is integral to Illinois' clean energy economy. The state is uniquely positioned to leverage natural gas as a part of its clean and affordable energy economy because of our multistate distribution network, availability of storage fields and our portfolio approach to decarbonization – or the reduction or elimination of carbon dioxide emissions from energy sources. As a partner in statewide efforts, we'll help make Illinois an ideal place to do business as a part of a clean energy economy.

Enabling an Economy-Wide Clean Future

Natural gas distribution companies can help facilitate an economy-wide net-zero greenhouse gas emissions future by working across the value chain. Natural gas utilities have played a critical role in reducing emissions for decades and Nicor Gas is ready to lead the pace of change as the U.S. transitions to a clean energy economy.

Over the past several decades, we have made significant progress to improve the sustainability of our system – and influenced others to make changes as well. Now, we are exploring a portfolio of opportunities to address climate change while providing even greater value to our customers and stakeholders.

Through our parent company, Southern Company Gas, we are a founding member of Our Nation's Energy Future. This coalition of natural gas companies is working to achieve a rate of methane emissions across the natural gas supply chain that is less than 1% of total production.

Building on our engagement with ONE Future, Nicor Gas aspires to provide its customers with natural gas that is sourced, transported and distributed by companies that have pledged to reduce methane emissions.

Our Approach to Fueling Sustainability

Nicor Gas is taking a portfolio approach toward decarbonization, both in terms of the clean technologies we pursue and the value chain we affect.

To achieve true net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide, we must work together – and Nicor Gas remains committed to the core principles of providing clean, safe, reliable, affordable energy to our customers, now and in the future.

Infrastructure Modernization

Nicor Gas has been a leader in the industry in making proactive system improvements to minimize methane and other greenhouse gas emissions. Through our investments in pipeline and infrastructure modernization with the support of our regulators, we reduced our annual operational emissions by nearly 500,000 MtCO₂e over a 10-year period of 2009 to 2019, a reduction of 54% over that time period.

New leak-detection technologies will help reduce the emissions footprint of natural gas while bringing additional operational and safety benefits to our customers and employees.

Future Fuels as a Path to Net Zero

We are focused on reducing emissions from our own business and beyond.

Our parent company, Southern Company, has set a goal to make its enterprise-wide operations net-zero by 2050.

Renewable Gas and Hydrogen

Renewable natural gas (RNG) is a sustainable and alternative source of natural gas created by capturing and utilizing fugitive methane from non-utility sources like landfills and agricultural waste, food processing waste, municipal waste and water treatment facilities, and is considered carbon neutral at the point of use. Hydrogen generates no carbon dioxide when it burns – just water vapor – which means there is tremendous potential to reduce end-use emissions by using hydrogen as a fuel.

Our existing infrastructure can support low-carbon fuels and renewable energy to our customers and help them reduce their own carbon footprint, help our business customers achieve their sustainability goals and create thousands of jobs across Illinois.

RNG is also a catalyst for economic growth in the state and recycles waste locally, producing revenue for farmers, industries and public facilities. Through its Renewable Gas Interconnection Pilot, Nicor Gas proposes to introduce renewable gas to its service area. We actively receive new requests for interconnection to renewable gas facilities and are working with local suppliers to integrate more renewable fuels into our system. Nicor Gas is also working with regulatory agencies, as well as local and state legislators, to bring renewable gas to our communities and facilitate economy-wide carbon reductions while fueling resiliency, energy security and the growth of the clean energy economy.

Our parent company, Southern Company, is an anchor sponsor of the Low-Carbon Resources Initiative (LCRI), a research and development collaboration between the Electric Power Research Institute and the Gas Technology Institute. Over the next five years, LCRI will focus on developing pathways to advance low-carbon technologies for large scale deployment, including hydrogen, RNG and related low-carbon resources.

Additionally, Southern Company Gas has partnered with industry peers, research consortia, academia and national laboratories to help start a new R&D initiative, known as HyBlend, to address technical barriers to blending hydrogen into natural gas infrastructure and study life-cycle emissions of hydrogen blends.



Fueling Resilience for Renewables

Natural gas plays a critical role in advancing solar and wind technologies. We work with commercial and industrial customers across northern Illinois to provide clean, safe, reliable and affordable back-up generation for their renewable applications. In addition, Nicor Gas has partnered with the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Habitat for Humanity to create the Nicor Gas Smart Neighborhood. This net-zero affordable housing community will demonstrate how leveraging existing natural gas systems can advance renewables in cold climate regions, driving energy affordability, reliability and resilience in communities.

Customer Empowerment and Energy Efficiency

Nicor Gas is committed to empowering our customers to reduce their footprint, which has significant potential to reduce emissions. For nearly a decade, Nicor Gas has implemented a comprehensive energy efficiency program for residential, commercial and industrial customers. We also have steadily increased energy efficiency services particularly for income-qualified and public-sector customers.

Since 2011, more than 845,000 customers have participated in the program. In total, customers have received more than \$188 million in incentives, saved more than 168 million therms and avoided more than 893,000 metric tons of CO2 emissions – equivalent to the emissions generated by 193,000 passenger vehicles over the course of a year.

We also are committed to helping our customers reduce their own emissions by choosing their energy source and understanding their natural gas usage. As of January, Nicor Gas has completed 2.2 million installations of state-of-the-art, two-way communication devices as part of our Meter Modernization Program. These smart meters will enable customers to learn more about their patterns of use and use energy more efficiently.

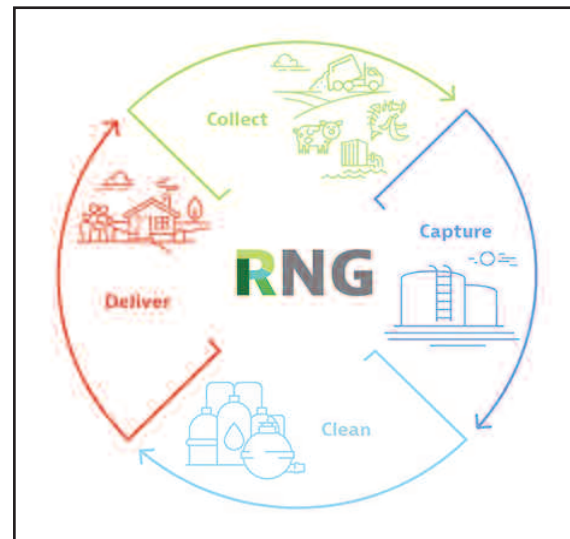
Nicor Gas Announces Second Renewable Natural Gas Interconnection

Marking Another Milestone in the Company's Path to a Sustainable Future.

Nicor Gas is proud to announce its second renewable natural gas (RNG) interconnection, marking another milestone in the company's path to a sustainable future. The new project links WM's (formerly Waste Management) RNG facility at its Orchard Hills Landfill directly to Nicor Gas' pipeline system. The WM RNG site, located in Davis Junction, Illinois, converts landfill gas into pipeline quality renewable natural gas. The facility is projected to produce approximately 5,709 mcf/d, or over 2 million dekatherms annually of RNG, which is the equivalent energy of powering approximately 18,000 homes served by Nicor Gas.

"This interconnection is a significant step in Nicor Gas and Southern Company Gas' journey toward a clean energy future for Illinois, made possible through the support and collaboration of many who share the goal of advancing economy-wide carbon reductions," said Wendell Dallas, president and CEO of Nicor Gas. "By bringing sustainable RNG to the marketplace, we foster clean energy job growth and new revenue streams for Illinois businesses, helping our communities thrive and bettering the environment on our path to a sustainable future."

RNG is a low-carbon intensity fuel produced from biogas that is derived from organic waste sources, such as household waste in landfills, wastewater treatment processes and agriculture. As organic waste decomposes, it produces biogas – a mixture of primarily methane and carbon dioxide. Instead of allowing it to be released into the atmosphere or flared, WM's RNG facility captures it at the landfill and purifies it into a pipeline-quality gas that is interchangeable with geologic natural gas. In some cases, RNG is one of the only energy sources that can have a negative carbon intensity on a life-cycle basis, depending on the feedstock.



The interconnection was established under Nicor Gas' Renewable Gas Interconnection Pilot Program approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission in 2021. This is the second interconnection of a biogas upgrading plant to the Nicor Gas delivery system. Last year, the utility celebrated the opening of its first RNG interconnection in nearby Rockford, Illinois.

Nicor Gas' pipeline infrastructure is a vital component in enabling reduced emissions for those entities who are purchasing and/or retiring the environmental attributes and delivering energy to end users, as well as encouraging RNG development. The company will receive and retire 20,000 MMbtu annually of environmental attributes associated with this project, contributing directly to Nicor Gas' reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from its operations.

To learn more about Nicor Gas's commitment to a clean energy future, visit www.nicorgas.com/sustainability.

LIHEAP Enrollment is Now Open

Applications are currently being accepted for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for income-qualified residential customers who are age 60 and older, disabled or have at least one child 5 years old or younger. Open enrollment for all other income eligible households will begin Nov. 1.

For eligibility information and to apply, visit www.helpillinoisfamilies.com or call 877-411-9276 (WARM).

Obituaries

Araiza

Christina Araiza, May 12, 1958-Sept. 15, 2025. Dearly beloved wife of Ricardo Araiza; loving mother of Michelle (Ruben) and Ricardo Jr. (Sandra); cherished grandmother of Dominic, Giana, Damian, Angel, Alexis, Aiden and Ava; loving sister, aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Beals

Dionne E. Beals, Aug. 20, 2000-Sept. 21, 2025. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Burial at Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Bluford

Linda D. Bluford, June 16, 1957-Aug. 12, 2025. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Oakridge Cemetery.

Canizalez

Pedro Canizalez, June 29, 1927-Sept. 16, 2025. Beloved husband of Guadalupe Canizalez; loving father of Ana Miriam Caceres, Elva Noemi Guzman, Sara Reyes, Blanca Alvarez and Clara Canizalez; fond grandfather of 14; fond great-grandfather of 31; dear brother of Berta Canizalez and Francisco Cuellar; loving uncle and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Carlini

Michael J. (Weenie) Carlini, 71, of Goodyear, Arizona, passed away peacefully on Oct. 5, 2025, alongside his loving wife.

Michael was born on March 21, 1954, in Melrose Park, Illinois, the son of the late Meryl and Gloria (nee Macro) Carlini. Beloved husband for 48 years of Patricia Carlini (nee Nick); loving father of Joseph (Charline) Carlini and Michelle (Sean) Wayne; cherished grandfather of Vincent, Joseph, Michael, Matthew and Mason; dear brother of Loretta (Lawrence) Gustello, Geralyn (Phil) Nocita and the late Don (Barbara) Carlini; fond brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many.

Michael's greatest joy in life was his family and friends. He lived each day with passion and purpose, finding true happiness in the time he spent with his wife, children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews and friends.

Known for his quick wit and sense of humor, he filled every room with laughter and warmth.

He faced every challenge in life with strength and perseverance, always leading with love and an unwavering commitment to those he cared for.

Michael was deeply devoted to his family, proudly coaching his children's sports teams and supporting every milestone along the way. He passed down his love of camping, travel and creating meaningful memories together.

In keeping with his generous spirit, Michael donated his body to science and research.

DeToni

Rose DeToni, 99, May 5, 1926-Aug. 21, 2025, of River Grove, passed peacefully at home on Aug. 21, 2025. Loving mother of Paul (Ginny) DeToni, Gina (Anthony) Salemi, Brian (the late Shannon) DeToni, the late Dale (Connie) DeToni and the late Mark (the late Angela) DeToni; cherished grandmother of Angela, Giavanna, Nicholas, Mark Anthony, Tawnirae, Michelle and Samantha; great-grandmother of Frank, Alissa, Mark Anthony III and Giuliana; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Loss

Joseph J. Loss, 76, Aug. 23, 1949-Oct. 5, 2025, a resident of Lisle, Illinois, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025. He was born Aug. 23, 1949, in Bellwood, Illinois, to Edward and Caroline Loss.

Joseph grew up in Melrose Park, Illinois, and carried the strong values of family, friendships and hard work with him throughout his life. He attended Illinois State University, where he was a proud founding member of the Theta Rho chapter of the Sigma Nu Fraternity and graduated before pursuing his Juris Doctor at Northern Illinois University College of Law. A dedicated and respected legal mind, he served as a senior partner at his law firm for over 35 years. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Joseph was a man of deep faith, known for his love of reading – especially his Bible – traveling the world with his family, enjoying a fine cigar (or two) and sampling great food. Whether on the golf course or at the dinner table, his presence was warm, thoughtful and always full of life. Above all, he cherished time spent with his family, who were the center of his world.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Heather; his three children, Joey, Carly and Luke; his five siblings; as well as nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. Arrangements by Hultgren Funeral Homes.

Muti

Robert Muti, Feb. 11, 1956-Sept. 9, 2025. Beloved husband of Connie; cherished father of Analisa; dear brother to Rick, Anthony (Waheeda), Carla (Ken) Koeppen, Joseph (Cydney) and Larry (Jessica) Silvestri; fond uncle to many nephews and nieces; loving friend and cousin to many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Raffaelli

Ron "Ronboy" Raffaelli, July 10, 1942-Sept. 30, 2025. Beloved husband of the late Francine Raffaelli; loving father of Frankie and Anthony (Claudia) Raffaelli; fond grandfather of Angelina, Anthony and Analisa Raffaelli; dear brother of Jeanne (Jim) Gornick and Dan (Barbara) Raffaelli; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment St. Joseph Cemetery.

Romano

Ariana Faith Romano, July 12, 2003-Aug. 11, 2025. Cat mother to Rosie; beloved daughter of J. Roger Romano and Dawn Lambert; loving sister of Danielle (Adam Coffelt) Romano and Christian Romano; cherished granddaughter of the late Gennaro "John" and the late Fortunata Romano, Bob McDonough and Mary Sweeney; fond niece of Guy (the late JoEllyn) Romano, John (Karyn) Romano, Dave McDonough and Jimmy McDonough; great-niece of Irma (Sal) DePiano, Duniella (Angelo) DeFeo, Teresa (Angel) Guzman, Louie (Toni) Manzo, Angelo (the late Franca) Manzo and the late Phil (Donna) Manzo; loving cousin to many; lover of cats, art and music; friend to many, especially to those in need; kind and caring soul; intelligent, quick witted and lively; devoted employee of Northwestern Hospital. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Sloan

Carol J. Sloan, Nov. 29, 1958-Sept. 5, 2025. With profound love and gratitude, we remember the remarkable life of Carol Jean Sloan, who left this Earth for her heavenly home on Sept. 5, 2025, in Plano, Texas. She was 66 years old.

Carol was a force of nature – a natural born leader, problem solver and

doer who believed nothing was impossible. If you knew her, she made you believe it, too. To meet Carol was to step into a world where anything could be accomplished. She carried endless energy for helping, fixing and lifting up everyone around her.

Born in the Chicago area to John and Genevieve Pasternock, Carol was the youngest and only daughter among four children, growing up with her brothers Jack, Terry and Larry. Raised in the Catholic faith, she carried her devotion to God throughout her life and supported her places of worship through fundraising efforts and donations.

Carol’s determination emerged early. She began working at age 13 as an Avon representative, became a bookkeeper at 16 and climbed the business ranks from there. She earned her degree in business management and accounting from DePaul University by attending night classes while working full time. Her career spanned leadership roles in international marketing, procurement and management across several companies. Later, she brought these skills to public service as a councilwoman of Shavano Park, Texas, serving her community with dedication and vision.

Beyond professional accomplishments, Carol’s greatest joy was family. She married the love of her life, Roger Sloan, in 1981, after charming him into joining her bowling team, which turned out to be just her. From that moment, Roger was smitten, and together they built a life filled with love, adventure and laughter. Their journey took them from Schaumburg, Illinois; to Salt Lake City, Utah; to Naperville, Illinois; to San Antonio, Texas; and finally Plano – creating lifelong friendships in every city. They skied snowy slopes, cruised lakes, relaxed on sandy beaches and opened their home for countless celebrations.

Carol was a devoted mother to Kelly and Sarah, always present, whether cheering as a proud band mom, planning unforgettable parties or ensuring her kids had every tool to succeed. She was also a passionate animal lover who viewed her numerous pet dogs as family members.

Cooking was one of Carol’s greatest passions. Known as the “hostess with the mostest”, she was well known for four-course meals and impeccable spreads that turned every gathering into a celebration. Her kitchen brimmed with cookbooks, gadgets and most importantly – love.

Carol also faced life’s challenges with courage and determination. In recent years, she transformed her health by completely changing her lifestyle, successfully managing her diabetes with little medication – an achievement that reflected her belief that “nothing is impossible”.

Her legacy is one of strength, joy and love as wife, mother, sister, aunt, godmother, colleague, friend and community leader.

Carol is survived by her beloved husband, Roger; her children, Kelly and Sarah; her brothers, Larry, Terry and Jack; as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and a wide circle of friends. While she will be dearly missed, Carol is reunited in Heaven with her parents, friends, family and beloved dogs, joyfully surrounded by her pack once more.

Carol’s spirit will live forever in the hearts of those who loved her. She was our powerhouse, our fixer, our joy – she will be deeply missed.

Arrangements by Allen Family Funeral Options (Plano, Texas). Burial at Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Stahl

Edna Stahl, June 3, 1942-Oct. 3, 2025. With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of our cherished Auntie Edna Stahl (Sosnowski) on Oct. 3, 2025.

Edna was an amazing aunt, loving sister and a true friend whose joyful spirit brightened the lives of everyone she met. Her warm heart, infectious laugh and endless kindness touched countless lives. Born in Chicago on June 3, 1942, to Eugene and Helen Sosnowski, she dedicated her life to her family and her passions. She was an incredible teacher in the Chicago

Catholic schools for over 30 years, leaving a lasting impression on every child she taught. If you were lucky enough to be in Mrs. Edna’s class, you became part of her extended family. She remained in close contact with many of her students and their families to this day. Affectionately known as “Auntie Piggy” or “the Pig Lady” for her love of pigs and her impressive collection, Edna found joy in the simple things and shared that joy freely with others. She had a rare gift for making everyone feel special, never forgetting a birthday, anniversary or special occasion. Her kindness truly knew no bounds. We will always cherish her stories, her dressing up like Buttons the clown for parties and her warm, loving hugs. Her memory will live on the hearts of her family and the countless friends she gathered throughout her life's journey. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband Frank Stahl, her dear sister Margaret Skalski and her parents Eugene and Helen Sosnowski. She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Bernice Sosnowski, and many nieces, nephews and godchildren who will carry her love and laughter forward. We will always cherish the joy, laughter, wisdom and unconditional love she gave so freely. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment St. Adalbert Cemetery.

Torchia

Michael Torchia, Aug. 7, 1946-Sept. 6, 2025. Michael Torchia passed away Sept. 6, 2025, at Elmhurst Hospital, Elmhurst, Illinois. Born Aug. 7, 1946, in Melrose Park, Illinois, son of Anthony and Josephine (Trobbiani). He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Toni Lynn Torchia, wife Susan (Pittman) and son Michael.

“Torch” to his friends and colleagues had vast experience shooting, directing and producing TV news, commercial and industrial projects plus magazine formats. Traveling the globe, he worked with every major broadcast outlet in the country.

After attending Southern Illinois University, Torch began his broadcast career at WSNS-TV Chicago. While there he worked on live talk shows and sports events directing broadcasts of the DePaul Blue Demons, the University of Illinois men's basketball, the Chicago Blackhawks and Chicago White Sox. Torch was the director of the doubleheader at Comiskey Park when the infamous Disco Demolition riot erupted between games in 1979.

Eventually, ABC7Chicago hired him as a cameraman shooting news and programming. Following this, he freelanced his camera skills with *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and countless Torch Productions.

Eventually, Torch co-founded Pixel Brothers which produced corporate and commercial video projects. During this time, he was operations manager for NBC Universal’s *Jerry Springer Show* and *Steve Wilkos Show*, delivering two one-hour daily talk shows for syndication.

Later, Torch was founding partner and executive producer of Kinzie Street Studios. Besides program development he was executive producer for the syndicated *Treasure Hunters Roadshow*.

In the past 25 years, Torch continued working part time for ABC7 Chicago in their Programming Department. His last broadcast ‘gig’ was the 2025 Bud Billiken Day Parade.

In 2005, the Chicago Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences presented Michael Torchia with The Silver Circle Award for his outstanding contribution to the broadcast industry.

Known by all as a gregarious, positive and generous friend. He always claimed everywhere was his “old neighborhood”. Torch was also a legend behind the broadcast scene. If a picture is worth a thousand words, his work spoke volumes. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.



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Mary Ann Paolantonio

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Anthony N. Abruzzo, Jaime Anguiano, Arturo J. Mota,
Sonny Nicotera, Mary Ramirez Taconi, Anthony "Tony" Williams

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