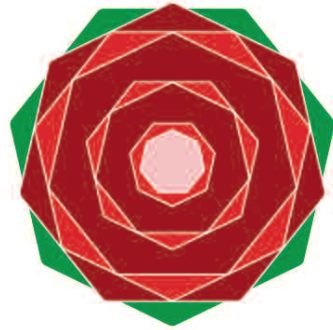




MELROSE PARK

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.

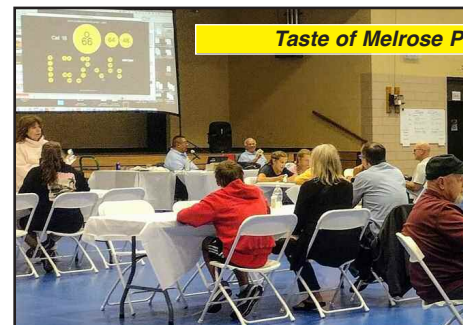
From Aug. 29-Sept. 1, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development hosted Bingo and a 50/50 Raffle at the Taste of Melrose Park for the fourth consecutive year! During the three days, over 100 games of Bingo were played, with winners getting half the proceeds from each game! Bingo pots 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.



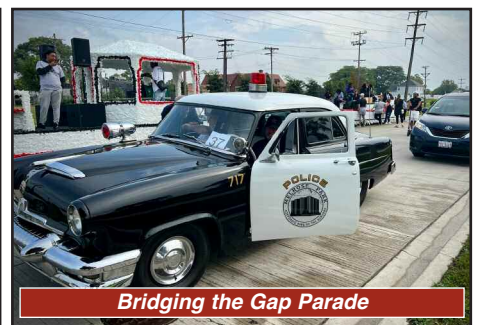
District 89's Back-to-School Picnic



Taste of Melrose Park Bingo



Taste of Melrose Park Bingo



Bridging the Gap Parade



Bridging the Gap Parade



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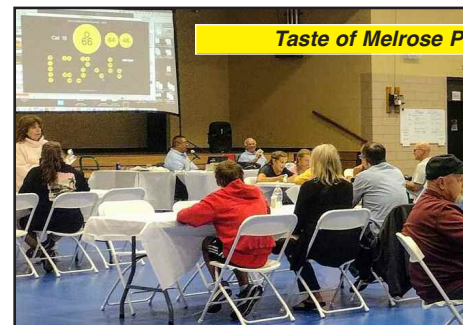
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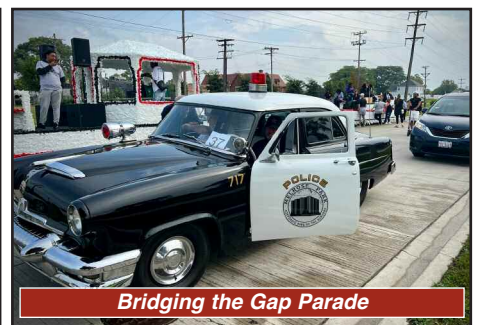
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