

## A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

*For us in the Chicago area, summer isn't just another season ... It's freedom. Every warm day feels precious because everyone knows it won't last forever. That's why we in Melrose Park smile a little wider when summer arrives.*

Dear Neighbors,

For us in the Chicago area, summer isn't just another season ... It's freedom. It's the feeling of sunlight after darkness, movement after months of stillness. Every warm day feels precious because everyone knows it won't last forever. That's why we in Melrose Park smile a little wider when summer arrives.



*Ronald M. Serpico*  
Mayor

To enjoy some of the summer-type services your village government offers, do the following – Visit [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org). Next, click on the “For Residents” box tab near the top of the home page, and a “Village Services A to Z” pop-up menu appears. There you will find a list of programs and services designed to improve your summer experience, like the following:

### **Block Party Permit Request**

Permits are available in both English and Spanish. Hosting a block party is a great way to connect with your neighbors. The Police Department will block traffic on your street so children can play safely, while residents enjoy grilling, sharing food and spending time together.

### **Dog Park Information and Permit**

Give your dog a chance to burn off those extra winter pounds at the Melrose Park Dog Park, located at 13th Avenue and Main Street. The park is open daily, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

### **Village-Wide Garage Sale Dates for 2026**

Village-wide garage sales will be held on the third weekend of each month, May through September.

### **Rent Melrose Park's Multipurpose Rooms**

Our Multipurpose Rooms can accommodate up to 150 people and include tables, chairs and a kitchen for graduation parties, wedding showers, family reunions or other celebrations.

### **Senior Free Painting Program Application for 2026**

Residents age 65 and older may apply for this special program, which provides a free exterior paint job to help refresh and maintain their home.

### **Sidewalk Replacement Program 2026**

The village will pay 50% to replace sidewalks in front of residents' homes.

### **Tree Planting Program**

Residents can receive a free tree for their parkway through the village's Tree Planting Program.

### **Summer Residential Ordinances**

Residents are encouraged to review the village ordinances related to summertime outdoor activities. These guidelines help ensure a pleasant environment for everyone in the community.

### **Calendar of Local Events**

Clicking on this link opens a pop-up menu with various events hosted by the Veterans Park District, Memorial Park District, Cook County Forest Preserves, Trailside Museum and Brookfield Zoo.

Residents are also encouraged to stay active by using the walking and jogging track located on the football field next to Village Hall, which is open daily, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

### **Community Celebrations**

The Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Procession will be held on July 19. The Taste of Melrose Park will take place Sept. 4-6, which is a great event to wrap up the summer season. HispanoFest will take place Sept. 11-13.

Take advantage of these programs and opportunities and enjoy a memorable summer in Melrose Park.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ron Serpico

**Check Out  
[www.MelrosePark.org](http://www.MelrosePark.org)  
to Learn More About  
Our Community!**



Follow us on Facebook.



Follow us on Instagram.

**THE TASTE OF MELROSE PARK IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!**  
Interested parties, please call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.



# Village of Melrose Park

**Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor**

**Mary Ann Paolantonio, Village Clerk**

### Trustees

**Anthony N. Abruzzo • Jaime Anguiano**

**Arturo J. Mota • Sonny Nicotera**

**Mary Ramirez Taconi • Anthony "Tony" Williams**



## To Know

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

Hours – Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

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

Water, Tickets, Etc.

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

**Police Emergency .....911**

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

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

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

**Non-Emergency .....(708) 344-1210**

**Public Safety/Homeland Security .....(708) 649-8000**

**Library .....(708) 343-3391**

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

**Building and Code .....(708) 343-4000**

**Civic Center .....(708) 450-0555**

Hall and Field Rentals, Sports, Etc.

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

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

Taste of Melrose Park

**Dial A Ride .....(708) 343-7047**

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

**Economic Development .....(708) 865-8809**

## Important Upcoming Dates

**Village Board Meetings.....May 26, June 22**

**Village Hall Holiday Closings .....May 25, June 19,**

**July 3 and Sept. 7**

# Resident Response

### *Dear Mayor Serpico and Director of Public Works Gary Marine ...*

The Melrose Park Youth Commission board and staff extend a gracious thank you to your Avenue of Flags street team for the hard work that they continue to do to keep the initiative that we started in 2014 looking polished, well manicured and always presentable.

During the recent strong winds and severe weather, several flags were damaged or blown off their holders, and without hesitation Armando Iannelli and Josh Terrones went above and beyond to do replacement work as needed.

Please extend our appreciation to each of these outstanding individuals. Their hard work does not go unnoticed.

- The Board and Staff of the Melrose Park Youth Commission

### *Dear Melrose Park Police Chief Anthony Greco ...*

My name is Gregg Schreiber and I'm writing on the actions of Sgt. Leonard Bartemio. Specifically, on the late afternoon of Feb. 13, 2026, I was stopped at the traffic light at the intersection of First Avenue and Chicago Avenue. Southbound First Avenue traffic was backed up and blocking my ability to move forward when our light turned green.

The driver behind me tried to pass on the left and scraped my rear quarter panel, and then proceeded to drive off through the intersection.

Sgt. Bartemio witnessed the incident while in his personal vehicle and took the initiative to follow the driver, and was able to stop the driver at the following intersection until police from Maywood could assist.

When I pulled up to the scene, Sgt. Bartemio introduced himself and explained he was heading home following his shift and had witnessed the incident. He had already reported to the Maywood officers what he had seen.

I am so grateful for Sgt. Bartemio's actions. His initiative while off duty is greatly appreciated.

- Sincerely,  
Gregg Schreiber

### *Dear Melrose Park Police Department and Chief Tony Greco ...*

I wanted to take a moment to personally thank you and recognize one of your officers for going above and beyond while on duty.

On Thursday, March 12, at approximately 2:14 a.m., Ofc. Jesse Santillan knocked on our door to let us know that our garage door was open. Earlier that evening when we returned home around 10:30 p.m., a shovel had accidentally blocked the garage door sensor, which caused the door to reopen after we closed it. Unfortunately, we didn't notice.

Officer Santillan mentioned that he had noticed the garage open earlier in the night while on patrol and made a point to circle back later to check if

it had been closed. When he returned and saw that it was still open, he took the initiative to ring our doorbell and alert us.

We are very grateful for his attentiveness and professionalism. It's reassuring to know that your officers are paying such close attention to the neighborhoods they serve and are willing to go the extra mile to look out for residents. It would have been very easy during the late-night hours to simply pass by, but Ofc. Santillan chose to act and we truly appreciate that.

Please extend our sincere thanks to Ofc. Santillan for his dedication and outstanding work. Acts like this remind us how fortunate we are to have officers who genuinely care about the safety of the community.

- With appreciation,

Carl Alaimo (Melrose Park Resident)

**Dear Melrose Park Police Chief Anthony Greco ...**

On behalf of the Northlake Police Department. I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your department's outstanding assistance with our aggravated unlawful use of a weapon case on April 19, 2026.

Our patrol officers took an initial report involving a juvenile who fled his grandparents' residence with a firearm. Despite early efforts, we were unable to immediately locate the subject. However, we subsequently learned that he frequented areas within Melrose Park.

Since assuming command of the Melrose Park Tactical Unit, Sgt. Leonard Bartemio has proactively reached out to establish a direct line of communication for handling serious cases affecting our shared communities. Knowing the offender had taken refuge in the Melrose Park area and had possible gang affiliations, my first call was to Sgt. Bartemio for intelligence support. He went above and beyond, personally assigning tactical officer James Schiller to assist our officers in conducting surveillance on a suspected address.

Shortly thereafter, information was developed placing the offender in a vehicle in the vicinity of Winston Plaza. Through the combined efforts of Northlake officers, tactical officer Schiller and members of the Melrose Park Patrol Division, the vehicle was located in the parking lot of LA Fitness. The juvenile was taken into custody with a female companion. A subsequent search of the juvenile's bedroom resulted in the recovery of a semi-automatic ghost gun. The juvenile was charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and possession of a firearm with no serial number. The female subject was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

The greatest compliment I can offer the Melrose Park Police Department is this – Your officers are always the first to arrive whenever we call. Your personnel consistently go above and beyond, and that dedication does not go unnoticed.

We are grateful for your assistance in this case, and for helping remove a violent offender and an illegal firearm from our streets.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if there is ever anything the Northlake Police can do for you. We will have our ear on the radio and stand ready to reciprocate at anytime.

- Commander Brett Lettieri, City of Northlake Police Department

# 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 Melrose Park vehicle sticker.**

**New stickers (valid from Jan. 1, 2026-Dec. 31, 2027) can be renewed now and must be displayed on or before Jan. 1, 2026.**

**All 2025 Vehicle Stickers Expired on Dec. 31, 2025.**

- New stickers for 2026-2027 are available at the Melrose Park Village Hall.

**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.



**2024-2025  
VEHICLE STICKERS  
EXPIRED  
DEC. 31, 2025.**

**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 Now-June 30	First Year July 1-Dec. 31	Second Year Jan. 1-Dec. 31
Passenger Plate	\$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	Now-June 30	July 1-Dec. 31
B Plate	\$65	\$95
C Plate	\$90	\$145
D Plate	\$90	\$145
F Plate	\$90	\$145
H Plate	\$90	\$145
J Plate	\$95	\$155
K Plate	\$95	\$155
L Plate	\$105	\$175
M Plate	\$110	\$185
N Plate	\$115	\$195
P Plate	\$120	\$205
Q Plate	\$120	\$205
R Plate	\$125	\$215
S Plate	\$130	\$225
T Plate	\$140	\$245
V Plate	\$150	\$265
X Plate	\$160	\$285
Z Plate	\$170	\$305

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ**

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

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



# Melrose Park Fire Department NEWS



*Rick Beltrame  
Director of Fire Dept.*

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

The Melrose Park Fire Department and Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame want to ensure the safety of our residents and their families by providing these electrical safety tips on behalf of the National Fire Protection Association. Please follow these tips to ensure your family's well-being!

### Electrical Safety

Flipping a light switch. Plugging in a coffeemaker. Charging a laptop computer. These are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind.



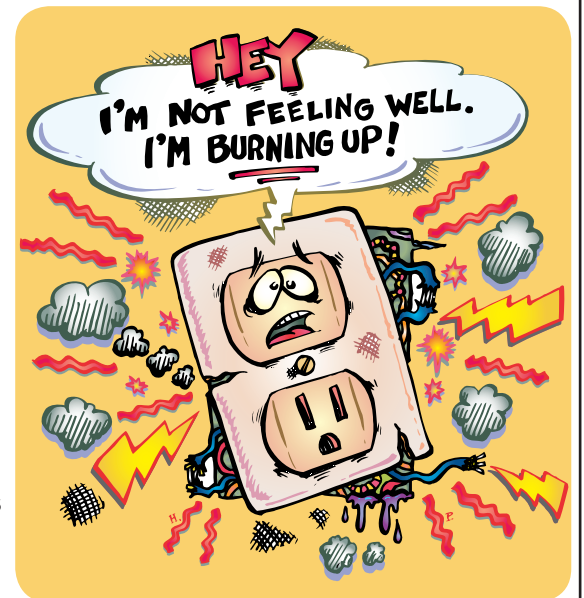
#### SAFETY TIPS

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified private inspector or in accordance with local requirements.
- Only use one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, microwave ovens, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.
- Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.
- Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month according to the manufacturer's recommendations. You do not need a flame to start a fire. Fires can start when heat builds up near things that burn. This can happen when a hot light bulb is near things that burn, such as cloth or paper, or a cord has been placed under a carpet.
- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.
- Use a light bulb with the right number of watts. There should be a sticker that indicates the right number of watts.

#### IMPORTANT REMINDER

Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
- Flickering or dimming lights
- Sparks from an outlet



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



**MELROSE PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

3601 W LAKE ST, MELROSE PARK IL 60160 PH (708) 344-1315, FAX (708) 531-5304

## Melrose Park Police Department

### A Message from Chief of Police Anthony Greco



Anthony Greco  
Chief of Police



## Important Parking Notice for Melrose Park Residents

A QUICK NOTE TO UPDATE WEEKEND PARKING RULES

Effective April 1, 2026, parking will be permitted on both sides of the street on weekends

(Friday, 5 p.m.-Monday, 9 a.m.) until Dec 1, 2026.

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 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1**

On Wednesday, April 1, the street sweeper began sweeping roadways.  
Please follow all street sweeping signs located on village streets.  
Please remove your vehicle from the street to help expedite sweeping.

## Provide an Anonymous Crime Tip

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

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

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

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

The website can be translated to Spanish and Polish.



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



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

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

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

## Melrose Park is Looking for Residents Currently Serving in the Military

### Attention Residents

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



Donations of any amount to support Melrose Park's Avenue of Flags initiative are appreciated and can be sent to: Village of Melrose Park/Avenue of Flags, 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, Ill. 60160.

Please make checks payable to the Melrose Park Youth Commission or Melrose Park Sports & Family Benefit Fund.



# Always Stepping Up ...

## Ofc. Schiller Honored with Mayoral Commendation for DUI Enforcement Efforts

The village of Melrose Park proudly announces that Ofc. James Schiller of the Melrose Park Police Department has received a special mayoral commendation from Mayor Serpico in recognition of his outstanding service and dedication to public safety.



Police Chief Anthony Greco, Ofc. Schiller and Mayor Serpico are pictured (top photo, left to right) at a recent board meeting.

The Melrose Park Police Department plays a vital role in protecting and serving the community through crime prevention, investigation, and safeguarding the health and welfare of residents. A key component of this mission is addressing the dangers posed by impaired driving. Drivers operating under the influence of drugs or alcohol present a significant risk to both themselves and others on the road.

In 2024, Ofc. Schiller demonstrated exceptional commitment to roadway safety by making 106 DUI arrests – the highest number recorded by any full-time officer in the department during that year. His proactive enforcement efforts have contributed to safer streets and

increased awareness around the dangers of impaired driving. In addition to the mayoral commendation, Ofc. Schiller has been recognized by the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists, receiving an award of appreciation for his dedication to removing impaired drivers from the road and protecting pedestrians and motorists alike. "Ofc. Schiller's commitment to keeping our community safe is incredible," said Mayor Serpico. "On behalf of the village of Melrose Park and its residents, we commend his remarkable achievements and thank him for his exemplary service."

The village of Melrose Park extends its sincere congratulations to Ofc. Schiller for his accomplishments and his ongoing efforts to enhance public safety.

## MPPD Welcomes Newly Promoted Police Sgt. Ortiz

The Melrose Park Police Department (MPPD) is proud to announce the well-deserved promotion of Ofc. Jessica Ortiz to the position of sergeant.

Sgt. Ortiz began her career with the department as a patrol officer, where she demonstrated dedication, professionalism and a strong commitment to serving the Melrose Park community. Through hard work and determination, she advanced to the role of detective, where she continued to make a meaningful impact through her investigative efforts.

This past March, Ortiz was promoted to sergeant, as this advancement reflects years of dedication, hard work and unwavering commitment to serving and protecting our village. Her leadership will continue to inspire and make a positive impact as she steps into her new role.

The village of Melrose Park graciously thanks Sgt. Ortiz for her service and looks forward to the continued success she will bring to the Melrose Park Police Department.

Jessica – Congratulations and best wishes for an incredible journey ahead from Mayor Serpico, Police Chief Greco and your colleagues at MPPD. Thank you for your service.



Sgt. Ortiz (center) is pictured with Police Chief Anthony Greco and Mayor Serpico

## MPPD Adds New Vehicles

The Melrose Park Fire Department has expanded its fleet with two state-of-the-art emergency vehicles to better serve the community.

The vehicles include a new rescue squad unit built on a 2025 Ford F-650 with a custom Marion body designed for complex rescue operations and a 2025 E-ONE Cyclone 95-foot aerial platform ladder truck, enhancing response capabilities at greater heights.

"These new vehicles reflect our commitment to keeping our firefighters equipped with the best tools to protect residents of our community," said Director Beltrame.

Pictured is the new rescue squad (top photo) and the aerial platform ladder truck (bottom photo).



# HOW MELROSE PARK VOTED ... MARCH 17, 20

## FOR U.S. SENATOR

Kevin Ryan .....	160
Robin Kelly.....	158
<b>JULIANA STRATTON.....</b>	<b>839</b>
Raja Krishnamoorthi .....	408
Steve Botsford Jr. ....	13
Bryan Maxwell .....	18
Jonathan Dean .....	13
Sean Brown .....	14
Awisi A. Bustos .....	25
Christopher Swann .....	18

## FOR COMPTROLLER, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Karina Villa.....	707
Stephanie A. Kifowit.....	78
Holly Kim.....	159
<b>MARGARET CROKE.....</b>	<b>724</b>

## FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

<b>PATTY GARCIA.....</b>	<b>1597</b>
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## FOR STATE SENATOR, 39TH DISTRICT

<b>DON HARMON .....</b>	<b>1435</b>
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## FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 7TH DISTRICT

<b>EMANUEL "CHRIS" WELCH.....</b>	<b>161</b>
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## FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 77TH DISTRICT

<b>NORMA HERNANDEZ .....</b>	<b>1093</b>
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## FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 78TH DISTRICT

<b>CAMILLE LILLY.....</b>	<b>364</b>
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Totals are combined results from votes cast in Melrose Park precincts only.

Bold faced indicates winning candidates based on the total amount of votes cast in all precincts for each race listed –

U.S. Senator, Illinois Comptroller, U.S. Representative, State Senator, State Representative,

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner, Cook County Board President, Cook County Assessor,

Cook County Commissioner, Board of Review Commissioner, Cook County Judicial Court Judge and Democratic Township Committeeperson.

# 26, Gubernatorial Primary Election Results

## FOR COMMISSIONER, METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

<b>EIRA LIZBETH CORRAL SEPULVEDA</b> .....	<b>1218</b>
<b>PRECIOUS BRADY-DAVIS</b> .....	<b>1011</b>
<b>BETH McELROY KIRKWOOD</b> .....	<b>995</b>
Sarah Bury.....	564

## FOR BOARD PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY

<b>TONI PRECKWINKLE</b> .....	<b>887</b>
Brendan Reilly .....	814

## FOR ASSESSOR, COOK COUNTY

Fritz Kaegi.....	560
<b>PAT HYNES</b> .....	<b>1005</b>

## FOR COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER, 16TH DISTRICT

Frank J. Aguilar.....	292
Leticia "Letty" Garcia .....	369
<b>MIRANDA E. HERNANDEZ</b> .....	<b>533</b>

## FOR COMMISSIONER, BOARD OF REVIEW, 1ST DISTRICT

<b>GEORGE A. CARDENAS</b> .....	<b>1035</b>
Juanita Irizarry .....	573

## FOR JUDGE, COOK COUNTY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT (VACANCY OF COGLAN)

<b>Ashonta C. Rice</b> .....	<b>636</b>
Michael Cabonargi.....	896

## FOR DEMOCRATIC TOWNSHIP COMMITTEEPERSON, PROVISO TOWNSHIP

<b>EMANUEL "CHRIS" WELCH</b> .....	<b>1557</b>
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Totals are combined results from votes cast in Melrose Park precincts only.

Bold faced indicates winning candidates based on the total amount of votes cast in all precincts for each race listed –

U.S. Senator, Illinois Comptroller, U.S. Representative, State Senator, State Representative,

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner, Cook County Board President, Cook County Assessor,

Cook County Commissioner, Board of Review Commissioner, Cook County Judicial Court Judge and Democratic Township Committeeperson.

# Melrose Park Public Safety News



**MELROSE  
PARK  
PUBLIC  
WORKS**



**From the Melrose Park Police, Fire and Public Works Departments**

## Lightning: What You Need to Know

- No place outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter: a substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up.
- Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

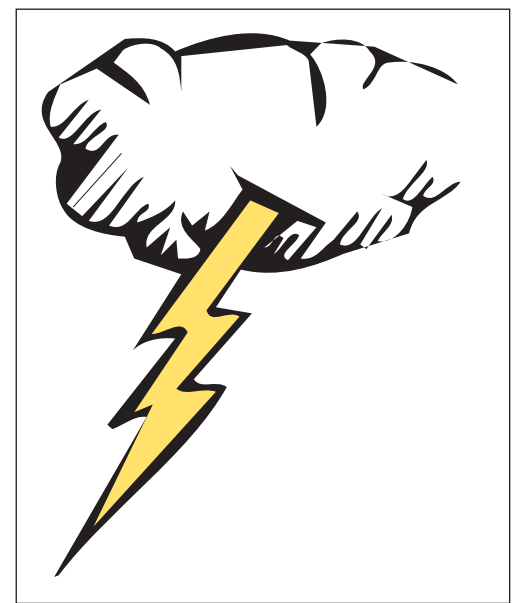
### Indoor Lightning Safety

- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

### Last Resort Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips

If you are caught outside with no safe shelter anywhere nearby the following actions may reduce your risk:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Never shelter under an isolated tree.
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.).



## Lightning Safety Myths and Facts

**Myth:** Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

**Fact:** Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building is hit nearly 100 times a year.

**Myth:** If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

**Fact:** Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud. "Bolts from the blue" can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm.

**Myth:** Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.

**Fact:** Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, not the rubber tires. Remember, convertibles, motorcycles, bicycles, open-shelled outdoor recreational vehicles and cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground. Don't lean on doors during a thunderstorm.

**Myth:** A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you'll be electrocuted.

**Fact:** The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid. This is the most chilling of lightning Myths. Imagine if someone died because people were afraid to give CPR!

**Myth:** If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.

**Fact:** Being underneath a tree is the second leading cause of lightning casualties. Better to get wet than fried!

**Myth:** If you are in a house, you are 100 percent safe from lightning.

**Fact:** A house is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity. This means staying off corded phones, electrical appliances, wires, TV cables, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows. Windows are hazardous for two reasons: wind generated during a thunderstorm can blow objects into the window, breaking it and causing glass to shatter and second, in older homes, in rare instances, lightning can come in cracks in the sides of windows.

**Myth:** If thunderstorms threaten while you are outside playing a game, it is okay to finish it before seeking shelter.

**Fact:** Many lightning casualties occur because people do not seek shelter soon enough. No game is worth death or lifelong injuries. Seek proper shelter immediately if you hear thunder. Adults are responsible for the safety of children.

**Myth:** Structures with metal, or metal on the body (jewelry, cell phones, Mp3 players, watches, etc.), attract lightning.

**Fact:** Height, pointy shape and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt will strike. The presence of metal makes absolutely no difference on where lightning strikes. Mountains are made of stone but get struck by lightning many times a year. When lightning threatens, take proper protective action immediately by seeking a safe shelter – don't waste time removing metal. While metal does not attract lightning, it does conduct it so stay away from metal fences, railings, bleachers, etc.

**Myth:** If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground.

**Fact:** Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, you keep moving toward a safe shelter.

# Tornados

## Before a Tornado

Know the terms used to describe tornado threats.

**Tornado Watch – Tornados are possible.** Watch the sky and listen to the radio or television for more information. Be prepared to take shelter. If you see any rotating funnel-shaped clouds, report them immediately by telephone to your local law enforcement agency. If you live in a mobile home, this is the time to move to a more substantial structure.

**Tornado Warning – A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.** Take shelter. Turn on a battery-operated radio or television and wait for the "all clear" announcement by authorities. Determine the best location in your home and office to seek shelter when threatened by a tornado. A basement or cellar will usually afford the best protection. If an underground shelter is not available, identify an interior room or hallway on the lowest level. Conduct periodic tornado safety drills with your family.

**During a Tornado – Take the following actions when a Tornado Warning has been issued by the National Weather Service, when sirens have been activated or when a tornado has been sighted near your area.**

**At Home –** Go at once to your predetermined shelter (storm cellar, basement or the lowest level of the building). In a basement, go under the stairs, under a heavy piece of furniture or a workbench. Stay there until the danger has passed. If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or a small inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls.

Go to the center of the room. Outside windows and walls may be penetrated by high speed, wind-borne missiles.

Get under a piece of sturdy furniture, such as a workbench or heavy table, and hold onto it.

Use pillows, mattresses or cushions to protect your head and neck.

If in a mobile home, get out and seek shelter elsewhere. A mobile home can overturn very easily even if precautions have been taken to tie down the unit. If there isn't a substantial shelter nearby, seek shelter in a low-lying area. Shield your head with your hands.

**In a School, Nursing Home, Hospital, Shopping Center or at Work –** Go to the designated storm shelter, basement or to an inside hallway on the lowest level.

Avoid places with wide-span roofs, such as auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums and large hallways. Stay away from windows and open spaces.

Get under a piece of sturdy furniture, such as a workbench or heavy table or desk and hold onto it. If sturdy furniture is not available, make yourself the smallest target possible. Squat low to the ground. Put your head down and cover your head and neck with your hands.

If in a high-rise building, go to small, interior rooms or hallways on the lowest level possible and seek protection as detailed above. Stay away from windows and outside walls.

Learn how to shut off the utilities to your home. Decide how and where your family will reunite.

If you live in a mobile home, identify a safe shelter outside of your mobile home such as a community park shelter, a neighbor or friend's house, or a nearby public building.

In a mobile home, consider installation of an underground shelter that is large enough to accommodate you, your family or several other nearby mobile home residents.

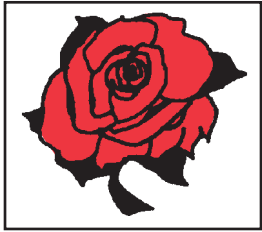
Consider retrofitting your house with special fasteners, connectors and reinforcing bands to strengthen the structural integrity. Also, consider installing a reinforced concrete and steel "safe room" as a small room within your house, or excavated and installed beneath your garage floor.

**In a Vehicle –** Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. Heavy rain, hail and traffic may impede your movement. Tornados can change directions quickly and can easily lift up a vehicle and toss it through the air.

Get out of the vehicle immediately and try to take shelter in a nearby building. Do not park under a bridge or underpass.

If there isn't time to get indoors, get out of the vehicle and lie in a ditch, culvert or low-lying area away from the vehicle.



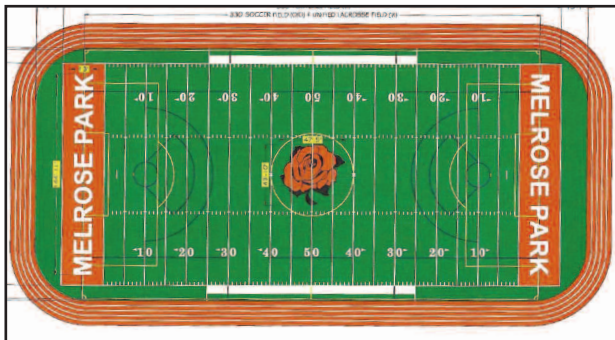


# Village of Melrose Park Public Works Report

*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.

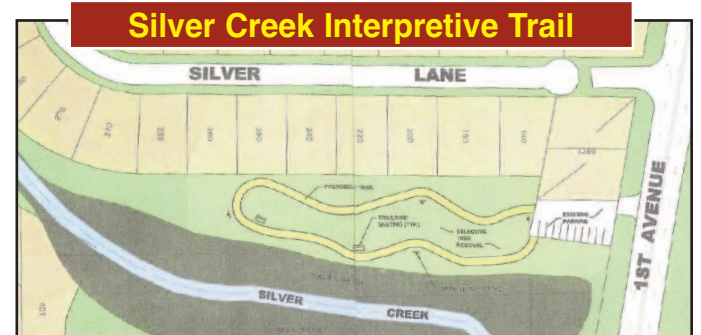
**Phase 5 and 6 of the  
Silver Creek Stabilization Project have been completed.  
Phase 7 is underway.**

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:

**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.

## 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.



## Village of Melrose Park

**Mayor Serpico  
and the**

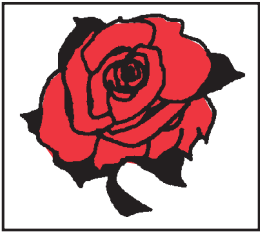
**Village of Melrose Park  
are Seeking  
Landscaping and  
Snow Removal Professionals  
to Provide Affordably Priced  
Assistance to Our Residents  
When Needed ...**



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 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



## 2026 Senior Club Lunch Dates ... Come for Some Fun!

May 14/Celebrating Mother's Day • June 11/Celebrating Summer

Oct. 8/Celebrating Halloween • Nov. 12/Celebrating Thanksgiving • Dec. 10/Celebrating Christmas

Interested in joining us? Call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448 or Ext. 4452, for details.

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

# COMMUNITY NOTICE

The village of Melrose Park Senior Services Department is always watching out for the well-being of our residents. To assist the Melrose Park Police and Fire departments in an emergency situation, we are compiling important information that can help in a time of need. If you are a senior resident living in our community, please complete both forms with the details requested, then clip and post the yellow copy on your home refrigerator and mail the blue copy to – Melrose Park Senior Services, 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160. For additional information, please call Peggy DiFazio, director of Senior Services, at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448 or 4452.

## Melrose Park Senior Resident Emergency Form

PLEASE CLIP AND POST ON YOUR HOME REFRIGERATOR.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone/Cellphone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number/Alternate Number \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency cases will be transported to Gottlieb Hospital by ambulance.

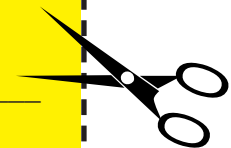
Medical Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Medications \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Please clip and post on your home refrigerator.***



## Melrose Park Senior Resident Emergency Form

PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL TO MELROSE PARK SENIOR SERVICES DEPT., 1000 N. 25TH AVE., MELROSE PARK, IL 60160

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone/Cellphone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number/Alternate Number \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency cases will be transported to Gottlieb Hospital by ambulance.

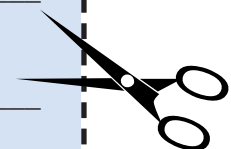
Medical Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

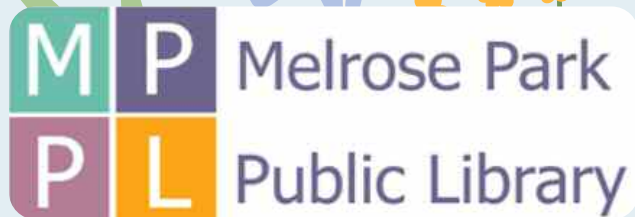
\_\_\_\_\_

Medications \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Please clip and mail as requested.***





# Sign Up Today E-NEWSLETTER

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

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

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Stream, Download, & More!



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AUDIOBOOKS, MAGAZINES, &  
MORE--ALL FOR FREE!



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COMICS, GRAPHIC NOVELS, & MANGA.



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TO DOWNLOAD, & TO CREATE  
YOUR OWN PLAYLISTS.



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



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ACCESS THE CATALOG, SAVE YOUR  
CARD AND MORE.



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

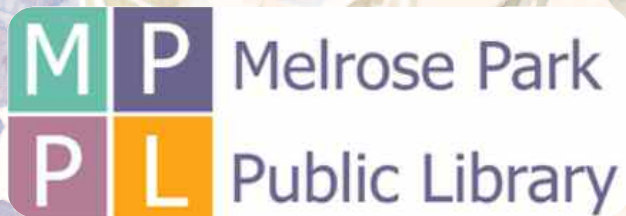
Check our website or call for  
the most current information  
on hours and procedures.

Mon Wed Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Tue Thu 9:00am - 7:00pm  
Sat 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Last Saturday of the month - Closed  
Sunday - Closed

[www.mpplibrary.org](http://www.mpplibrary.org)  
801 N Broadway  
Melrose Park, IL 60160  
[mps@mpplibrary.org](mailto:mps@mpplibrary.org)  
(708)649-7400



Memorial Day thru Labor Day - Closed on Saturdays



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

# Adult Spring Programs

## MEDITATION SOUNDBATH



**SATURDAY**  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
DATES  
MAY 16TH  
OCT 17TH

FOR ADULTS & SENIORS  
(708) 649-7485  
mpref@mpplibrary.org

**MUSEUM ADVENTURE PASS**

CHECK OUT MUSEUM PASSES WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD

**BROOKFIELD ZOO**

**CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN**

**VOLO MUSEUM AND MORE!**

**CERNAN EARTH AND SPACE CENTER AT TRITON COLLEGE**

Learn computers and become adapted with the one-on-one help from our knowledgeable instructor.

**Computer Help Session**

Monday  
MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> & JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> & 22<sup>ND</sup>

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

**LEARN NEW SKILLS:**

- COMPUTER BASICS
- E-MAIL
- MICROSOFT WORD
- PRINTING AND MORE

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
CALL OR EMAIL  
(708) 649-7485  
MPREF@MPPLIBRARY.ORG

## CHAIR YOGA

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

**FRIDAYS**  
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

DATES

May 15	Aug 14
June 12	Sept 18
July 17	Oct 16

Begin Your Journey...

## GENTLE YOGA

**SATURDAY**  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

DATES  
September 19th

To Register Call or Email  
(708) 649-7485  
mpref@mpplibrary.org

Begin Your Journey...

**LET'S PLAY**

**SENIORS-EDITION**

# BINGO!

MONDAY, JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> @ 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Socialize with a cup of coffee and win prizes!  
Registration Required

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.

# Youth Spring Programs

**Make it Mondays:** Stop by the Library on Mondays to grab your weekly craft bag. First-come, first-served. Ages 3+

**ABC Storytime:** Join us every Wednesday for our interactive playtime of fun, featuring stories, music, and toys! 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Ages 1-5 with caregiver.

**Spanish Bilingual Storytime:** Join us for bilingual storytime on the second Thursday of each month. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM. Ages 1-5 with caregiver.



**YOUNG ENGINEERS**  
ROBOTIC HAND

MPPL Hopes You Enjoyed this Amazing Event!

REGISTER REQUIRED



**Sensory Shenanigans**  
MAY SENSORY BINS

Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> All Day | All Ages Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

FLOWER SOUP LADY BUG SLIME SPLISHY SHAPES



**Sensory Shenanigans**  
JUNE SENSORY BINS

Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> All WEEK | All Ages Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>

CREAMY DREAM SANDY SHORES LEMON BLISS



**FREE**

**Shedd**  
AQUARIUM

**ILLINOIS RESIDENT FREE HOURS**

2026 Free Nights (5 p.m. - 9 p.m.)

May 5, 12, 19, 26  
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

**FREE**



**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**  
COMING SOON....

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

All dates and times are subject to change without prior notice. Please see the website, or call us for updated programming information. All programs at the library are free but registration is required. MPPL card holders have first priority. To register, or with any further questions, please call 708.649.7400.

# PODS New Look



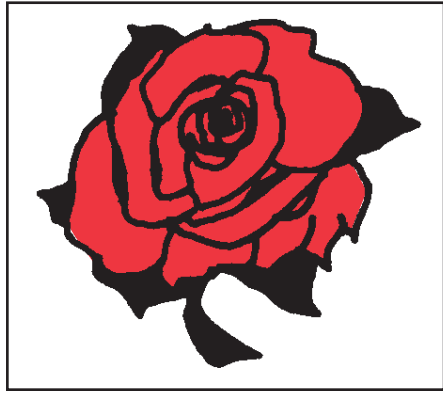
- TVS WITH HDMI CORDS
- WHITEBOARDS
- UP TO 8 PEOPLE
- USEFUL FOR TRAINING, MEETINGS, TUTORING, & MORE



**Come in to reserve a POD or call ahead!**

**(708) 649-7400**

**801 N. BROADWAY, MELROSE PARK, IL 60160**



# 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

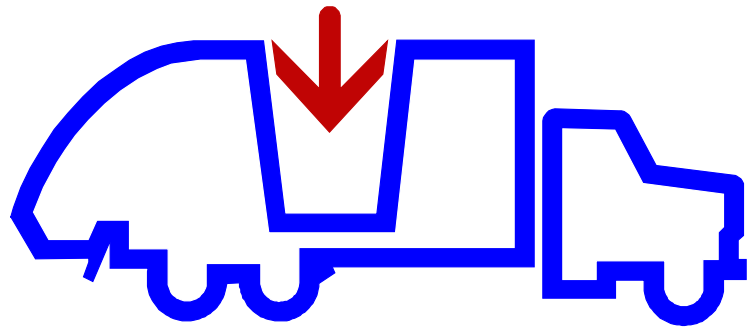
- 1) Only one reservation per rider per day. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 2) Only two appointments a week can be made for miscellaneous use, such as grocery shopping, etc. Anyone using the van for doctor appointments, etc., may use the service up to three times a week.
- 3) You must stay at the destination you are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



# Village of Melrose Park Residential Garbage Pickup Information

## Republic Services Garbage Schedule for Residential Bi-Weekly Pickup

24th Avenue to 11th Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

Winston Park Area – Tuesday and Friday

West Melrose – Tuesday and Friday

North of North Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

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

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

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

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

## The Village of Melrose Park Public Works Department Garbage Pickup Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commercial and apartment buildings must use a private scavenger company.

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

This information is also available at [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org).

## ATTENTION RESIDENTS – CALL TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT RESIDENT GARBAGE CANS

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

### REPLACEMENT RESIDENT RECYCLING CANS

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



# Melrose Park

# 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 ROSE AD RESERVATION FORM

## Save the Dates!

Next Issue – June 2026  
(Deadline for material – June 1, 2026.)  
Schedule for 2026  
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](mailto: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



# Village of Melrose Park

## Garage Sale Notice

**Garage Sales are Back ...**

**It's Time to Sell All Those Treasures**

The rules on garage sales held in the village of Melrose Park are as follows:

Garage sales will be held on the third weekend only during the months of May, June, July, August and September. Sales are to be conducted on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the designated weekends. No sales are allowed on Sundays.

The dates for 2026 are May 21-23, June 18-20, July 16-18, Aug. 20-22 and Sept. 17-19.

Garage sales shall be conducted only during the hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

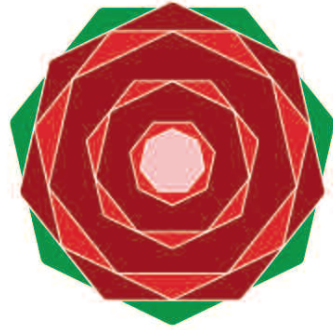
No permit is needed for garage sales, however the following rules must be followed:

- No garage sales may be conducted in apartment buildings.
- No garage sales in the frontyard, i.e., on the grass.
- All garage sales to be conducted in backyard, garage or on driveway.
- All sale items to be displayed on tables, not on the ground.
- No sale items shall be located and no sale activity shall be conducted in the frontyard area, on the premises of any public sidewalk, parkway area or other public property.
- No sale signs, handbills or other advertising material shall be located or posted upon public parkway or on public property, signs, poles or light poles within the village of Melrose Park.
- Signs advertising the sales shall not exceed 3-by-5 feet and may be located only in the frontyard (private property) of the address having the garage sale, and must be removed immediately after the sale.
- The sale will be conducted without the use of outdoor loud speakers, amplification equipment or illuminated advertising devices.

Any person violating these rules shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.

A copy of garage sale rules is available at [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org).





# MELROSE PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## New Chamber Members and Renewals

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development welcomed two new members in February and March. The MPCCCD also had a record number of membership renewals over any two-month period with 27 businesses deciding to continue to support the chamber and to continue to participate in networking events, information sessions, technical assistance and provide meaningful feedback and survey responses to help us connect them to resources and information they need to support their businesses.

Please join us in welcoming Keyla Kiddie Kollage and Partnership Financial Credit Union as the two newest members of the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce. We also want to give a special thanks to the 27 businesses that renewed memberships in February and March. They are Above & Beyond Black Oxide, Inc.; Alpha and Omega Learning Center; Alpha and Omega Outreach Ministries; Aseret Development Series, LLC; Chick-Fil-A; Development Services Corp; Diana Ibarra State Farm Agency; Elite Electric Co, Inc.; Forza Construction & Consulting Group, Inc; Glen Una Investment and Management Company, Inc.; Guerine & Company Inc.; IHop Melrose Park-#1289; Iskali; La Flor Michoacana; Lincoln Technical Institute; MACID, Inc.; Maywood School District 89; Melrose Park Public Library; Missionary Sisters of St. Charles; Municipal Solutions Group, Inc.; Pan American Bank & Trust; Precision Repair Inc.; Re/Max Sylvana Menolascino; Tom's Steak House; West 40; West Central Municipal Conference; and Windy City Auto Spa.

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](mailto: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/>.

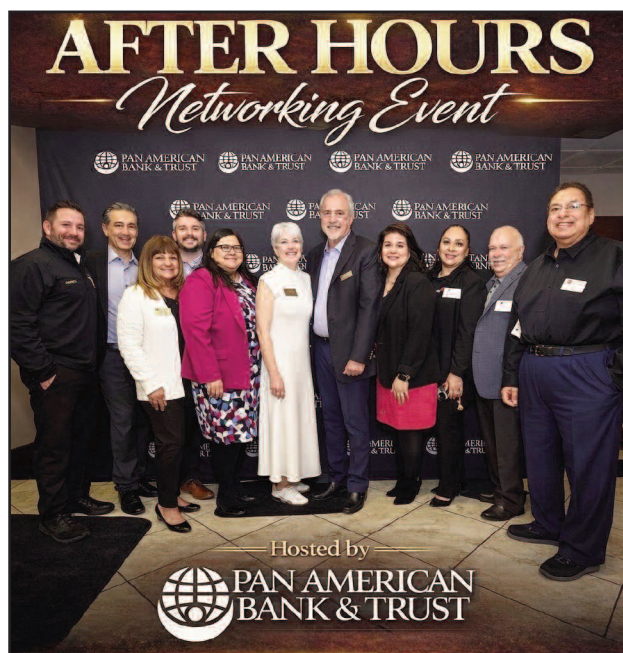
## Connecting Businesses to Businesses and Other Resources!!!

### Pan American Bank Hosts Chamber After Hours

On Feb. 26, the MPCCCD held its first quarterly Chamber After Hours Networking Event of 2026. The evening was hosted and sponsored by Pan American Bank and was attended by over 50 business and community leaders that were able to enjoy conversation with old friends, make new connections and identify potential customers. A special thanks to everyone for attending and for helping us to grow the chamber and most importantly for helping us to fuel growth in our community!

Thank you to Pan American for hosting and for their continued commitment to investing in our local business community.

When businesses and organizations connect, Melrose Park grows.



# Monthly Business Breakfast

On March 26, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce hosted its monthly business breakfast and seminar, and welcomed Diana Alfaro from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to provide information regarding existing grants and special loan programs available to businesses and nonprofit businesses. During the program, Diana touched on a broad list of programs available through DCEO at <https://dceo.illinois.gov>, but went on to talk about programs available through Cook County and even a number of private foundation grants available to both for-profit and not-for-profit businesses.

MPCCCD Executive Director Isaac Bazbaz welcomed over 40 business leaders to the event and thanked Ms. Alfaro for her annual presentations at the MPCCCD Business Breakfast



Seminars and most importantly for all of her assistance over the past four years, and the Melrose Park Chamber has helped local businesses obtain over \$5 million in grant support with awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$150,000 with most of the awards going to small businesses with less than 20 employees.

## Upcoming Events, Training and Information Sessions

One of the primary functions of the MPCCCD is to connect businesses to resources to help support growth and to make a difference in the community. Although this takes many different shapes and approaches, one of the primary efforts is to host monthly training events, informational meetings, networking sessions and participating in community events.

### May 2026 – Chamber After Hours Networking Event

Although the date and location have not yet been finalized, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development will host its quarterly networking event in May. The Chamber After Hours are quarterly events and present opportunities to reconnect with business and community leaders in the area, as well as to meet new contacts, potential vendors and potential customers.

Watch your email or follow the chamber on Facebook to stay updated on the date and time for this information session. You can also visit the MPCCCD Event Calendar at <https://mpcccd.org/events/>.

### May 2026 – Coffee with the Chamber

In May, the chamber will begin a new event that we are calling Coffee with the Chamber. These events will feature guest speakers and will initially focus on security and safety for your business, employees and customers. Coffee with the Chamber events will be held at various local member businesses.

Although the date and time of the first Coffee with the Chamber event has not been finalized, we are happy to announce that Chick-fil-A has offered and will be hosting the event in May.

Watch your email or follow the chamber on Facebook to stay updated on the date and time for this information session. You can also visit the MPCCCD Event Calendar at <https://mpcccd.org/events/>.

### June 24, 2026 – Food Safety and Sanitation

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Triton College and will be hosting a Food Safety and Sanitation Program. This program will be facilitated by a certified ServSafe® instructor and the training will be held in Melrose Park at the MPCCCD offices located at 900 N. 25th Ave. There will be a certification test provided at the end of the class. The ServSafe® course meets the Illinois Department of Public Health certification requirements.

Registration for this program will open later in May and communication will be targeted to include businesses in the restaurant and hospitality sectors.

Please mark your calendars and save the date for this program. Note – Registrations will be limited to a total of 25 participants for this program.

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

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

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



Your Financial Help Makes This All Possible!



*Mayor*  
**Ronald M. Serpico**

**2026**  
*Taste of Melrose Park*

**Celebrating Our 44th Year**

**September 4th, 5th & 6th**



Melrose Park Campus  
Near the NW Corner of  
25th Ave. and Lake St.



# WELCOME TO THE 44TH ANNUAL TASTE OF MELROSE PARK

Dear Friends of Melrose Park,

We invite you to partner with us as a sponsor of the **44th Annual Taste of Melrose Park**, taking place **September 4–6 over Labor Day Weekend**—one of the largest and most anticipated events in our community.

Each year, the Taste of Melrose Park attracts thousands of attendees for three days of great food, live entertainment, and family fun. Unlike other food festivals, most of our vendors are local residents sharing family recipes, creating an authentic and memorable experience that keeps visitors coming back year after year.

As a sponsor, your business or organization will receive high-visibility exposure to a large, engaged audience. Sponsorship is an effective way to:

- Promote your brand to thousands of potential customers
- Demonstrate your commitment to the Melrose Park community
- Gain recognition before, during, and after the event

Your support also plays a critical role in making this event possible. Sponsorship funds help cover event costs and allow us to keep food prices at **\$5 or less per serving**, ensuring the Taste remains affordable and accessible for families despite rising expenses.

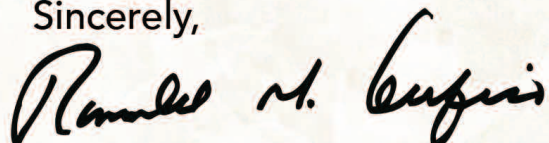
If you have sponsored the Taste of Melrose Park in the past, thank you for your continued support—we hope you will consider renewing your sponsorship for 2026. If you are new to the event, we would be honored to welcome you as a partner in this long-standing community tradition.

This insert outlines a variety of sponsorship packages designed to fit different budgets and marketing goals. To secure your sponsorship, please complete and return the application form located on Page 29.

For additional information or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact **Lorena Anguiano** or **Taste Director Peggy DiFazio** at [taste@melrosepark.org](mailto:taste@melrosepark.org) or call **708-343-4000 ext. 4452 or 4448**.

We look forward to promoting your business and working together to make the 44th Taste of Melrose Park another outstanding success.

Sincerely,



Ronald M. Serpico  
Mayor of Melrose Park



# TASTE OF MELROSE PARK SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

## \$8,000.00 PLATINUM SPONSOR PACKAGE

1- Full Page Color Ad (9" wide x 10.5" tall)  
10' x 10' Hospitality Tent  
2 - Main Stage Video Walls  
1 - 4' x 6' Banner  
1 - 2' x 4' Billboard

1 - Ad (4.5" wide x 2.28" tall) to run 6 times in *The Rose* newspaper  
Public Address System Announcements  
1 - Parking Pass

## \$5,000 GOLD SPONSOR PACKAGE

1 - Half Page Color Ad (9" wide x 5.5" tall)  
10' x 10' Hospitality Tent  
Main Stage Video Wall  
1 - 3' x 4' Banner  
Public Address System Announcements

## \$3,500 SILVER SPONSOR PACKAGE

1 - Full Page Color Ad  
Main Stage Video Wall  
1 - 2' x 4' Billboard  
Public Address System Announcements

## \$1,500 BRONZE SPONSOR PACKAGE

1 - 9.25" x 5.5" Color Ad  
1 - 3' x 4' Banner  
Public Address System Announcements

## \$1,000 MAIN STAGE VIDEO WALL ADVERTISING PACKAGE

Your Ad Will Scroll on an 8' x 15' Screen  
6:00 PM - Close Each Night

## MORE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### \$3,000 T-SHIRT SPONSOR

Your Company Logo  
Printed On 500+ Volunteer Shirts  
(T-Shirt Space Will Be Limited)

★ **MUST SUBMIT** ★  
**BY JUNE 1ST**

### \$850.00 COLOR BANNER

1 - 3' x 4' Color Banner will be displayed throughout the grounds  
1 - Ad (4.5" wide x 2.28" tall) to run one time in *The Rose* newspaper

### \$500.00 COLOR BILLBOARD

1 - 2' x 4' Color Billboard, which can include your logo. Displayed the month of August facing 25th Avenue  
1 - Ad (4.5" wide x 2.28" tall) to run one time in *The Rose* newspaper

**If none of these packages meet your needs or budget, we will work closely with you to design a sponsorship package that will.**



Please detach order form on Page 29.

# TASTE OF MELROSE PARK ORDER FORM

See Page 28 for the  
44th Annual  
Taste of  
Melrose Park  
Sponsorship  
Details!

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**  
**TASTE OF MELROSE PARK**

**Please Return This Form With  
A Check Or Money Order  
No Later Than May 15th To:  
Taste Of Melrose Park  
1000 N. 25th Ave.  
Melrose Park, IL 60160**

**Please Select One of  
the Following Packages:**

\_\_\_ \$8,000.00 PLATINUM SPONSOR

\_\_\_ \$5,000.00 GOLD SPONSOR

\_\_\_ \$3,500.00 SILVER SPONSOR

\_\_\_ \$1,500.00 BRONZE SPONSOR

\_\_\_ \$3,000.00 T-SHIRT SPONSOR

**(Submit by June 1st)**

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

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

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

\_\_\_ OTHER

## PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Lorena Anguiano or Peggy DiFazio at  
708-343-4000, ext. 4448 and they will work with your company  
to develop a sponsorship package that will meet your budget.

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

### **Important Please Read!!!**

**No later than June 1st** we need you to email us your billboard or banner  
**Camera Ready Artwork** or email us the vital information we need for us  
to create your billboard or banner to: [taste@melrosepark.org](mailto:taste@melrosepark.org)

For more information or if you have a question, please call Lorena Anguiano or  
Peggy DiFazio at 708-343-4000, ext. 4448 or email them at [taste@melrosepark.org](mailto:taste@melrosepark.org)



**Calling All  
Area  
Crafters,  
Businesses,  
Community  
and  
Public  
Service  
Organizations,  
Etc., Etc., Etc.!**



The Taste of Melrose Park is looking for area crafters, businesses/organizations, etc., to purchase a spot in the new Craft Area or on Information Row at the

2026 Taste of Melrose Park, Friday, Sept 4-Sunday, Sept. 6.

This is a great opportunity to showcase your amazing masterpieces, products and services to the more than half a million people expected to patronize this year's big event.

For more information, please send an email to [taste@melrosepark.org](mailto:taste@melrosepark.org) or call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448 or 4452.



# The 44th Annual Taste of Melrose Park is Looking for VOLUNTEERS to Be a Part of a Great Weekend

Mayor Serpico and the Taste of Melrose Park are seeking volunteers for the beverage booths (individual or groups of eight or less) or ticket booths (a group of six or less) to help support this year's big event and we appreciate any assistance you can provide over the three-day festival.

All volunteers receive a 2026 Taste of Melrose Park T-shirt and must be 21 years of age. We're sure you'll have plenty of fun!

**Friday, Sept. 4 • 5:30-11 p.m.**

**Saturday, Sept. 5 • 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or 5:30-11 p.m.**

**Sunday, Sept. 6 • 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or 5:30-10:15 p.m.**

To volunteer, please complete the Taste of Melrose Park Volunteer Form and mail it to:  
Taste of Melrose Park, Attn.: Lorena Anguiano,  
1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160

Interested parties, please respond before Aug. 1, 2026.  
If submitting as a group, please send a main contact person's information.

## Mayor Serpico and the Taste of Melrose Park Volunteer Form

Please print clearly.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply.

Individual  Group

Available to work:  Friday  Saturday  Sunday

Would like to volunteer for:

Ticket Booth  Beverage Stand

**For more information, call Lorena at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4452.**



## Your Donation Helps Underwrite More Than Just a Food Festival... It Helps Create a Better Melrose Park

Besides helping underwrite music and food, the most important result derived from your donation to the Taste of Melrose Park is the money raised for the *Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit Fund*. Since this fund was initiated, we have raised \$1.5 million dollars from the sale of beer and wine at the three-day festival.

The *Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit Fund* has only a 2% overhead with 98% being used to help underwrite youth athletics, senior citizen and veteran events, computer purchases for schools, donations to local charities, helping families in need, and much more.

When you donate to the Taste of Melrose Park you are not only helping underwrite a three-day food festival, but you are also helping make Melrose Park a better community to live, work and play. Long after the Taste folds its tents the smiles on the faces of those who benefit from the *Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit* will endure... and helping our neighbors is what the Taste of Melrose Park is all about.

# TASTE OF MELROSE PARK 2026 FOOD VENUE

**Food, Food, Food and More Food ... Bon Appetit!  
It's Great!**

**Come on By and Enjoy the Delicacies We Have on the 44th Annual Taste of Melrose Park Menu.**

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Camaci's Italian Sausage                     | Cody's Root Beer Floats                       |
| Camaci's Arancini                            | Cheesy Mac and Cheese                         |
| Tom's Steak House Filet Slider               | Athenian Foods Greek Chicken w/Rice           |
| Sam & Sammy's Italian Egg Rolls              | Strawberry Slushies                           |
| Shwings Fried Shrimp                         | Squire's Cotton Candy                         |
| Carlotta's Sweet Aroma Linguine w/Garlic&Oil | Pepe's Ceviche                                |
| "Cata's" Chicken Flautas                     | Nutella Crepes                                |
| Mickey's Italian Beef                        | Nirvana's Brownie Sundaes                     |
| GALS Hot Dogs                                | J.T.'s Italian Meatball Sandwich              |
| Putt's Breaded Steak Sandwich                | Antney's Italian Lemonade                     |
| Richie's Curly Fries w/Cheese                | Ashley's Snow Cones                           |
| A & M Maxwell Street Polish                  | Tony & Teresa's Fried Oreos                   |
| Los Comales "Taco Bout It" Horchata          | Melrose Stuffed Peppers                       |
| Los Comales "Taco Bout It" Tacos             | Riccio's Chocolate Frozen Bananas             |
| The Roasted Cob                              | Scudiero's Pizza                              |
| Cilla's Steak Teriyaki                       | Scudiero's Pepperoni Rolls                    |
| Cervone's Homemade Cannoli                   | Clara's Dippin Dots                           |
| Ron & Debbie's Fried Dough                   | Eli's Cheesecakes                             |
| Levato Affogato                              | Lil Dean's Lyza & Nella Raviolis              |
| 5 Stars Sports Cheese Enchiladas             | Vinnie Laraia's Baked Clams                   |
| Shwings Wings                                | Top Butcher Market Sinatra Sandwich           |
| Nacho Mama's                                 | Jessica's Tamales                             |
| Athenian Foods Gyros                         | Marilyn's Delicious Hamburgers                |
| Soon's Tres Leches Cake                      | Corz Kids Garlic Shrimp                       |
| Italian Stuffed Mushrooms                    | Corinne Ariola Principe's Artichoke Casserole |
| Carm's and Gino's Fried Calamari             | Elio's Funnel Cakes                           |
| Uncle Frankie's                              | Missionary Sisters of St. Charles "Sfingi"    |
| Mostaccioli in Tomato Basil Sauce            | Iannelli's Panzerotti                         |
| Nikki's Zucchini Cheese Puffs                | Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish Food Trays  |
| Lil Jimmy's Pierogies                        | Senior Center Coffee & Popcorn                |



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



# TASTE OF MELROSE PARK

## Entertainment Schedule

**Our 2026 Entertainment is All Set ... Stages are Full!  
For this Year's Taste, We are Featuring  
Some of the Best Musical Performances Ever!  
It's Going to be Amazing!**

### Winston Plaza Main Stage

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 4**

**7-8:30 p.m. – The Blooze Brothers Band**

**9-10:30 p.m. – Chicago's Own Piano Man Band**

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 5**

**3:35-4:30 p.m.**

**Forevermore Dance & Theatre Arts**

**5-6:15 p.m.**

**Bad Medicine – Tribute to Bon Jovi & More**

**6:45-8:15 p.m.**

**Always Oliva Tribute**

**8:45-10:45 p.m.**

**American English – Beatles Tribute**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 6**

**3:30-5 p.m. – Breakfast Club**

**5:30-7:30 p.m. – After Party**

**8-10 p.m. – The Shagadelics**

**10 p.m. – Laser Light Show on the Football Field**

### Peroni Garden Stage

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 4**

**7-10:45 p.m.**

**Tony Ocean & The Rat Pack**

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 5**

**3:30-5 p.m. – Lake Effect**

**6-8:30 p.m. – Reckless**

**9-10:30 p.m. – The Four C Notes**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 6**

**3-4:30 p.m. – Taylor Live**

**5-6:45 p.m. – Jersey Girls**

**7:15-10 p.m. – R-Gang**

### Main Drive

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, SEPT. 5-6**

**1:30-2 p.m. – Jesse White Tumblers**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 6**

**2-2:45 p.m.**

**Chicago Garda Pipes & Drums**

### Al Piemonte Taste Lounge

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 4**

**6-11 p.m. – M.B. Entertainment DJ**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, SEPT. 5-6**

**5-11 p.m. – M.B. Entertainment DJ**

### North Food Lot

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 4**

**5-11 p.m. – Explosive Sounds DJ**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, SEPT. 5-6**

**Noon-10 p.m. – Explosive Sounds DJ**

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



**Continuous Free Entertainment  
All Weekend Long!**



## Time to Celebrate ... Melrose Park Block Parties with Street Closures are Now Allowed

Residents wishing to have a block party must bring or mail an application for a special permit to the Building Department at the Village Hall. The permit is free, but must be submitted to the village trustees for approval since traffic must be rerouted to accommodate a party. The village will provide barricades on both ends of the block. Any questions, please call the Village Hall at (708) 343-4000.



For a Block Party Permit Application, visit [www.melrosepark.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ENSspecialEvent-merged.pdf](http://www.melrosepark.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ENSspecialEvent-merged.pdf).

## Tax Season Is Over – Now It's Time to Look Ahead

By Mike Corrigan

Now that tax season is behind you, there's no better time to take a closer look at your financial picture. While everything is still fresh in your mind, ask yourself:

- Are you doing everything you can to reduce next year's taxes?
- Are you too exposed to stock market volatility?
- And most importantly – are you truly on track for the retirement you want?

Most CPAs and tax preparers focus on the past. They document what already happened and prepare your return after the fact. Unfortunately, once the year has ended, there's often little you can do to meaningfully reduce your tax liability.

That's why it's critical to think forward.

Instead of looking in the rearview mirror, start planning for what lies ahead. The actions you take today can have a significant impact – not only on your future taxes, but on your overall financial well-being.

It's easy to procrastinate. Life gets busy, and financial planning often falls to the bottom of the list. But your financial health deserves attention. Make it a priority.

Consider having a professional review your entire financial picture. A comprehensive review can uncover blind spots and help you build a strategy designed to last. Think of it as a financial checkup – addressing potential issues today so you can feel more confident about tomorrow.

From Social Security and Medicare planning to pension decisions, tax strategies and creating reliable retirement income – these are complex and important decisions. You don't have to navigate them alone.

There are six fundamental financial planning considerations everyone should address:

- Longevity – The risk of outliving your assets as life expectancy increases.
- Liquidity – Having access to funds for unexpected expenses.
- Inflation – The rising cost of living and the erosion of purchasing power over time.
- Market Exposure – The level of risk in your portfolio, especially once you no longer have a steady paycheck.
- Mortality – The financial impact on a surviving spouse or partner.
- Taxes – The ongoing effect of taxation on your income, savings, and retirement assets.

Each of these factors plays a role in your financial future. The question is: to what extent do they apply to you?

The sooner you take control of your financial plan, the better positioned you'll be to enjoy a more confident, secure, and stress-free retirement.

For many, navigating these issues can feel overwhelming. That's why seeking guidance can make all the difference. Working with an experienced financial professional can help simplify the process and provide clarity.

Our firm offers complimentary consultations to help individuals, families, and business owners address these important areas and build a plan tailored to their unique circumstances.

To learn more, contact Mike Corrigan, (708) 215-5100, [mike@corriganfs.com](mailto:mike@corriganfs.com)

### Selling or Buying Property Representative For the Good, Bad and Ugly 50 Years Experience Any Type of Real Estate

**RON FABIANI SR.**  
**YOUR "REAL ESTATE" SPECIALIST**  
**MID-AMERICA REALTY & MORTGAGE**  
**MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SALES AWARD WINNER**  
**FREE PROPERTY APPRAISALS – ALWAYS CUTTING CORNERS**



**EVERYTHING I TOUCH TURNS INTO  
SOLD, LEASED AND NEGOTIATED  
HANDLING ALL OF ILLINOIS, INDIANA  
AND PARTS OF WISCONSIN**

**CALL RON AT 1 (708) 415-2484  
FOR YOUR PRIVATE APPOINTMENT/7 DAYS A WEEK**



# Melrose Park Residents Enjoy the Magic of This Year's Easter Parade



On Saturday, April 4, 2026, Mayor Serpico and the Melrose Park Police Department's FOP led the way for the Easter Bunny to travel through our community.

The Easter Bunny made several stops along the route, including the Bulger Park and Sharps Park locations, where children and adults alike had a great opportunity to take photos and receive some Easter goodies.

The streets were lined with people who enjoy a morning full of fun, community pride and Easter excitement.



# Veterans Park District

## Programs & Happenings

### Early Childhood

#### Pee Wee Splish & Splash

##### Ages Up to 5

Enjoy a relaxed and playful water experience designed just for little ones! The kiddie pool is open exclusively before public swim hours, giving families a calm and comfortable space to splash and play. With warm, shallow water and fun, age-appropriate toys, children can build confidence and develop motor skills while sharing special moments with a parent or caregiver.

- Friday, June 19 and Friday, July 24, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Gouin Pool and Waterslides, 2400 Scott St., Franklin Park; Fee – \$5 per child/\$3 per additional child.

### Youth Athletics

#### 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, June 4-July 1, Noon-1 p.m.; Bulger Park Field, 1600 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – \$50.

#### 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, June 1-June 29; Bulger Park Field, 1600 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – \$50.

#### Mini Sports

##### Ages 4-7

Get ready to run, kick, hit and play! Our mini sports introduces kids to the exciting world of sports through a fun mix of soccer, tee ball and a mix of field games.

- Tuesdays, June 2-June 30, Noon-1 p.m.; Grant Park Field, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – \$50.



### Fitness

#### Fitness Classes

Cimbalo Fitness Center offers a variety of fun, exciting fitness classes for all ages and fitness levels. Our classes include Zumba, Pump & Sculpt, Strong 30/CIRCL 30, Middle Eastern Belly Dancing, Total Body Resistance, Yoga, Chair Yoga, Youth Boxing and Youth Fitness. Fitness Center members receive 25% off fitness classes. The first session of summer classes starts at the end of May.

Call Cimbalo Fitness Center at (708) 343-5151 for more information.

#### Aqua Fitness Classes

Come out and enjoy our fun Aqua-Zumba and Aquacize classes at Gouin Pool! Classes are held every Saturday morning (weather permitting) starting June 13 and running through Aug. 8, with Aqua-Zumba kicking off at 10 a.m., and Aquacize immediately following at 11 a.m. (No class of July 4. Drop-in prices are \$8 for residents/\$9 for nonresidents.

Call (708) 343-5151 for more information.

#### Pickleball Lessons

Head over to Cimbalo Fitness Center to check out our Pickleball Lessons! The rules are simple and easy to learn, making it fun for athletes of all ages. We offer lessons for a variety of age groups and skills levels, as well as scheduled open-play dates. Lessons start in June.

Please call (708) 343-5151 for more information.



**Call us for more information  
on our upcoming programs,  
(708) 343-5270 or  
(708) 716-4822,  
or check our website at  
www.vpdpark.org or our  
Facebook Page for updates.**

**Always  
Stay  
Connected  
with  
Veterans  
Park District.  
There's  
So Many  
Ways!**

@vpdpark @vpdpark @VPDpark @vpdparks  
 Download our mobile app  
 (708) 343.5270  
 E-mail us: vpdsocial@vpdpark.org  
 Visit us online at: vpdpark.org



## **Cuomo To Go**

25 E. North Ave - Northlake, IL  
708-223-0000  
Open M-F 10:30am-7pm

### **Daily Specials**

**MONDAY:**

**Cuomo's Famous Meatloaf & Chicken Limone**

**TUESDAY:**

**Stuffed Pork Chop & Chicken Picante**

**WEDNESDAY:**

**Salisbury Steak & Chicken Florentine**

**THURSDAY:**

**Stuffed Bell Pepper, Chicken Marsala,  
& Broasted Chicken**

**FRIDAY:**

**Chicken or Steak Parmigiana**

**Homemade daily specials, fresh salads, hot soups,  
sandwiches, desserts, and much more!**

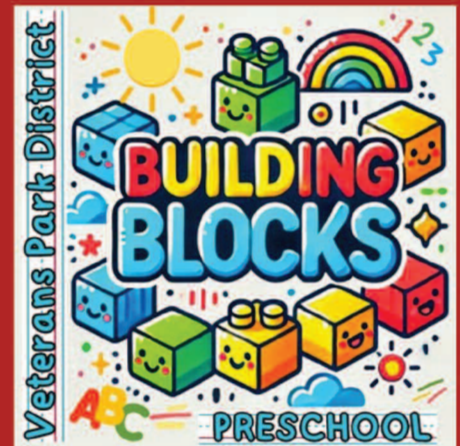




**Veterans Park District Programs & Happenings**

VETERANS PARK DISTRICT  
**BUILDING BLOCKS PRESCHOOL 2026-2027**

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

**Call:**

708-731-5290

**Email:**

[gregstanczyk@vpdpark.org](mailto:gregstanczyk@vpdpark.org)

**Schedule a Tour**

- Meet the Teacher & Staff
- See the Preschool Classroom

**Location**

- Bulger Community Center, 1601 W Hirsch St, Melrose Park

**Registration is now open!**



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





**Veterans  
Park  
District**

*Programs  
&  
Happenings*

**Pool Passes  
On Sale  
NOW!**

# SUMMER

AT VETERANS PARK DISTRICT

## GOVIN POOL & WATER SLIDES

**OPEN DAILY  
12-6PM  
MAY 30TH\***  
"weather permitting"

**2400 SCOTT STREET  
FRANKLIN PARK**

**Scan Me!**

**+708.343.5270** **vdpd.org**



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





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



# SUMMER DAY CAMP at Veterans Park District

**Ages 6-12**



## Camp Highlights:

- Outdoor Adventures
- Creative Arts & Crafts
- Field Trips
- Pool Days, with Swim Lessons
- Lunch is Provided



**Session 1: June 1 - June 19**  
**Session 2: June 22 - July 10**  
 \*No camp 7/3  
**Session 3: July 13 - July 31**

**Monday-Friday | 9am-4pm**  
**\$400R/\$450NR**

<b>Before Care</b>	<b>After Care</b>
8-9am	4-6pm
\$75R	\$150R
\$105 NR	\$210NR

### Locations:

- Grant Park Recreation Center  
44 W Golfview Dr, Northlake
- Bulger Park Community Center  
1601 Hirsch St, Melrose Park



**(708) 343-5270** Follow Us On  
**VPDPARK.ORG**  

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





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



# PEE WEE TOT CAMP

at  
**VETERANS PARK DISTRICT**

**Ages 3-5**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
**9am-12pm**  
**\$300 per session**  
**\$75 per week**  
*\*5 campers minimum per week*

Summer-themed activities that spark curiosity

Hands-on learning in a relaxed environment

Art, music, outdoor play & interactive projects

Snacks provided daily



## Session 1: June 1-25

- Week 1: This is ME!
- Week 2: Farm Animals
- Week 3: Stellar Adventures
- Week 4: Jungle Safari

**Bulger Park**  
**1601 Hirsch Street,**  
**Melrose Park**

## Session 2: July 6-30

- Week 1: Dino Discovery
- Week 2: Transportation Station
- Week 3: Bugs & Butterflies
- Week 4: Under the Sea

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**VPDPARK.ORG**  



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





**Veterans  
Park  
District**

*Programs*

*Happenings*



# YOUTH SPORTS

**BIG  
IMPROVEMENTS TO  
OUR  
YOUTH SPORTS  
PROGRAMS !**

- ★ LOWER FEES
- ★ NEW TIMES
- ★ LONGER SESSIONS
- ★ NO OUT OF DISTRICT FEES



## BASEBALL

AGES 8-12  
Mondays  
12-1p

June 1-29  
July 14 - August 11

\$50 per session  
Bulger Park Baseball Field




## SOCCER

**AGES 8-12  
THURSDAYS  
12-1P**

**JUNE 4 - JULY 2  
JULY 16 - AUGUST 13**

**\$50 PER SESSION  
BULGER PARK FIELD**



## MINI SPORTS

**AGES 4-7  
TUESDAYS  
12-1P**

**JUNE 2-30  
JULY 14- AUGUST 11**

**\$50 PER SESSION  
GRANT PARK FIELD**

**708-343-5270**



**VPDPARK.ORG**



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TO CUSTOMER SATISFACTION**



**Sammy Alfano**  
**sammya@apnissan.com**



*more than good hair.*

2115 W Lake St Melrose Park  
Open Tuesday - Saturday  
Call us: 708 223 0981  
Text us: 833 239 6837

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

color ♥ extensions ♥ cuts ♥ blowouts



## Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

The Melrose Park Village Hall will be closed for the following holidays:  
Memorial Day – Monday, May 25, 2026; Juneteenth – Friday, June 19, 2026;  
Independence Day – Friday, July 3, 2026; Labor Day – Monday, Sept. 7, 2026;  
Columbus Day – Monday, Oct. 12, 2026; Veterans Day – Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2026;  
Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, Nov. 26, 2026; Day After Thanksgiving – Friday,  
Nov. 27, 2026; Christmas Eve (1/2 Day) – Thursday, Dec. 24, 2026; Christmas Day  
– Friday, Dec. 25, 2026; New Year’s Eve (1/2 Day) – Thursday, Dec. 31, 2026; and  
New Year’s Day – Friday, Jan. 1, 2027.

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 2026 is: Tuesday, May 26; June 22; July 27; Aug. 24; Sept. 28; Oct. 26; Nov. 23; and Dec. 28.

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



**There's a place for you  
this summer!**



**Triton College**



**[triton.edu/summer](https://triton.edu/summer)**

**Classes begin May 26, 2026**



# Triton College NEWS



**Summer Registration  
is Now Open!**  
Secure Your Classes Early!  
Visit [triton.edu/summer](http://triton.edu/summer).

**Classes begin Tuesday, May 26.**

## Mark Your Calendars for These Exciting Triton College Events

### Veggie and Plant Talk and Sale

Discover the wonder of plants and the health benefits of vegetables at Triton College's annual Veggie and Plant Talk and Sale, hosted by the Horticulture Department. Events will be held every Thursday.

#### Event Schedule

Annual Plant Sale – Thursday, May 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Between A and B buildings.

Veggie Plant Talk – Thursday, May 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.,  
Botanical Garden area.

Veggie Plant Sale – Thursday, May 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Between A and B buildings.

The Horticulture Department is also hosting a Farm Stand every Thursday beginning Thursday, June 11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., located between the A and the B buildings, rain or shine. The Farm Stand will run through Oct. 1. Flowers, herbs and produce grown by Triton students, staff, faculty and community volunteers will be available for purchase. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted.

For more information, please contact [Grow@triton.edu](mailto:Grow@triton.edu).

### Art in the Courtyard

Triton College students, faculty and staff will be showcasing their creative artwork at the Village of Hillside's Art in the Courtyard, Thursday, June 18, 6-8:30 p.m., at the Hillside Village Hall, 425 N. Hillside Ave., Hillside.

In addition to artwork, Art in the Courtyard will feature live music and refreshments, offering an inspiring evening of art in a vibrant community setting. This free event is open to the public.

For more information, contact Michael Thunberg  
at [michaelthunberg@triton.edu](mailto:michaelthunberg@triton.edu).

We're Bringing Good People  
Together Again for Something  
Incredibly Special!

## Triton College Foundation 28th Annual Golf Outing Thursday, June 25

**White Pines Golf Club • Bensenville**  
**Individual Golfers – \$175**  
**Foursomes – \$700**

*Hole-in-One Special!*  
**Birdie Sponsor – \$1,100**

Includes a foursome, signage at welcome area and  
two hole signs on both courses being used for the outing,  
as well as name/logo on promotional material and website.



**Now's the Time  
To Register!**

It's that time again! The Triton College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, will host its 28th annual golf outing on Thursday, June 25, at White Pines Golf Club in Bensenville.

The event, open to novice and skilled golfers alike, will kick off at 10 a.m., with an 18-hole round of golf, golf carts, goodie bags, continental breakfast, lunch, dinner and prizes.

Golfers may register as individuals for \$175 per person or as a foursome for \$700. Exclusive corporate, par and hole sponsorships are available as well. Sponsorships begin at \$200. The Foundation is also accepting prizes for its annual Super Raffle. Sponsorships and donations are tax deductible.

Proceeds from the annual golf outing will benefit Triton College Foundation scholarships and more.

**To register for the event or to become a sponsor,  
contact the Triton College Foundation for details!**  
Call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3758, or  
send an email to [tcfoundation@triton.edu](mailto:tcfoundation@triton.edu).

## Emerson Celebrates March Madness with Teamwork and School Pride

Emerson School wrapped up an exciting month of March Madness attendance celebrations filled with energy, teamwork, and school pride. Students cheered on as Ms. Nunez's class won the attendance shoot-out against Ms. Dunkle's class, while staff joined the fun in a Spring Break shoot-out, where the 3-5 team and AP DeLoncker defeated the K-2 team and Principal Smith, 7-4. The festivities ended with a lively Sneaker Ball that celebrated students' achievements in style. Great job to the third-grade team for planning and to all who made the month a success!



## Mystery Reader Brings Big Laughs to Kindergarteners

Jane Addams Panthers enjoyed a joyful and laughter-filled moment as Mystery Reader Mr. A.J., one of the school's dedicated custodians, visited Ms. Matticks' kindergarten class to read *The Book with No Pictures*. His animated storytelling had students laughing from start to finish, creating a memorable experience for all. From keeping the school running smoothly to brightening up students' days, Mr. A.J. continues to make a positive impact as a valued member of the Panther family.



## Young Learners Discover the Power of Trade and Cooperation

Lincoln School third graders brought the global economy to life by stepping into the roles of different countries, producing and trading goods in a hands-on simulation. Through this engaging experience, students learned how countries depend on one another and the importance of cooperation in meeting global needs. The activity strengthened their understanding of economics and highlighted the value of teamwork and collaboration.

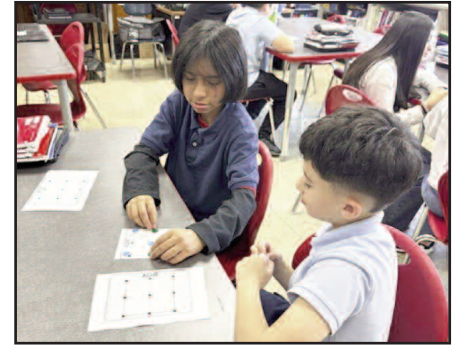


## Students Explore the Power of Voting

Melrose Park School's first-grade dual language students in Mrs. Fairholm's class, joined by Mr. Sydney, participated in an engaging mock election to learn about national elections. Through this hands-on experience, students explored important civic concepts such as voting, making choices and understanding fairness. They practiced casting ballots and discussed the importance of having a voice, and building early awareness of citizenship in a fun and meaningful way.

# ACHI Brings History to Life

Stevenson Middle School sixth-grade Social Studies students in Mr. Collins' class brought history to life as they wrapped up their Medieval Africa unit by playing ACHI, a traditional African game. Through this interactive experience, students explored cultural traditions while reinforcing their understanding of the region's history. The activity encouraged strategic thinking, collaboration and a deeper appreciation for African heritage in a fun and engaging way.



# Fourth Graders Engage in Hands-On Math Challenge

Washington Dual Language Academy fourth graders transformed their classroom into an interactive math adventure during a St. Patrick's Day-themed learning experience. Through engaging, leprechaun-inspired challenges, students reviewed key concepts, such as multiplication, area and perimeter, word problems and unit conversions. This hands-on approach promoted collaboration, critical thinking and problem-solving, allowing students to actively apply their skills in a meaningful context.



[www.maywood89.org](http://www.maywood89.org)

Follow Us on Twitter “@maywood89”

## The **ROSE** Wants to Hear Your Story ...

**We want to provide readers with helpful information and highlight local individuals, organizations, businesses or special events that make Melrose Park a unique and thriving community!**

Do you know any interesting people in town who are worthy of recognition?  
Is there great news about an organization or business that you are involved with that you want others to know about?

If you answered “Yes,” then we want your story!

Please send all your exciting details by direct mail to:

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

Or you can send an email to [TheRose@melrosepark.org](mailto:TheRose@melrosepark.org).

**Please include your name and a phone number that's best to reach you at.**



## News from Proviso Township High Schools

www.PTHS209.com

### Proviso West Robotics Team Makes History at 'Battle on Belmont' Competition

Students from Proviso Township High Schools District 209's Proviso West High School made history on Saturday, April 18, 2026, as they competed for the first time in the Robot Smashing League Battle Bot competition, 'Battle on Belmont', hosted at St. Patrick High School in Chicago.

The event, organized by Striker 101 and sponsored by Repeat Robotics and the Robot Smashing League, featured antweight and plastic antweight divisions, with competitors battling in a 6-ft.-by-6-ft. arena. The tournament followed a group-stage format, advancing top competitors into single-elimination rounds.

Proviso West entered five student-built robots into the competition, marking a milestone moment for the school's robotics program. After six matches each, two Proviso West students placed in the top 10 in the highly competitive antweight division.

Senior Gabriel Cano earned a second-place finish, while junior Jose Reyez placed sixth. Junior Kevin Raya finished 11th in the full combat antweight class and sophomore Jeancarlos Duran claimed victory in an antweight rumble battle.

"It was great to have the skills come together from Robotics and Panther Manufacturing clubs to create 3D-printed robot weapons and parts, and to build, learn about motors, electrical and following work instructions," said Proviso West teacher and robotics sponsor April Senase.

The competition brought together student engineers from across the region, challenging them to design, build and operate combat robots while applying real-world STEM skills. Students participated in all aspects of development, including fabrication, electrical systems and mechanical design.

Superintendent Krish Mohip praised the team's achievement and the broader impact of robotics education.

"Opportunities like this give our students hands-on experience that goes far beyond the classroom," Mohip said. "Through robotics, they develop critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork and technical skills that prepare them for college, careers and the future workforce."

The event included free admission for spectators and a full day of competition with matches streamed live online.

Students and coaches expressed excitement about the program's future, with many already planning for upcoming competitions.

Proviso West Robotics continues to expand opportunities for students to engage in STEM learning through hands-on, competitive experiences that foster innovation, collaboration and real-world skill development.

### Melrose Park Boy Scout Builds Flag Retirement Boxes to Help Earn Eagle Scout Rank

Gonzalo Valdez, a member of Melrose Park Boy Scout Troop 4112, recently completed construction of two flag retirement boxes as part of his project to achieve the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.



The flag retirement boxes provide a respectful place for community members to deposit worn American flags

In March, Valdez attended the Veterans Park District (VPD) board meeting to lead the *Pledge of Allegiance* for those in attendance and present his first-completed box to the board members, while a second box was delivered to the park district in April.

Valdez organized the project from start to finish, demonstrating leadership, commitment and community service – key qualities required for Eagle Scout candidacy.

The completed boxes, where residents can conveniently and respectfully retire their flags, are located at the following VPD facilities – Bulger Park, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; and Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake.

Residents are encouraged to inspect their flags and visit one of the drop sites to retire those that are torn and not presentable.

Earning the rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting, requiring years of dedication, skill development and the successful completion of a community-focused service project.

Pictured (left to right) are VPD Commissioner Theresa Nardiello; Fred Crancich, Boy Scout Troop 4112 leader; VPD commissioners Diane Sampson and Ron Boscaccy; Boy Scout Gonzalo Valdez; Boy Scout Henry Dorsey; VPD commissioners Mary Copher and Tom Olson; William Dorsey, Troop 4112 co-leader; and Bill Otte, VPD executive director.

The Melrose Park Boy Scouts are looking for new members. Any boys interested in joining are encouraged to call Mr. Crancich at (708) 609-5539.



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

*Greetings from Fr. Leandro Fossá, C.S.*

## **Alleluia, Alleluia ... Christ is Alive**

Dear Parishioners!

“They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we don’t know where they put him.” These are the words of Mary Magdalene after realizing that the stone of the tomb is removed, words of fear, concern, desperation and anxiety.

Glory to God in the Highest. We have waited for 40 days to sing the glory and now we rejoice because our Lord and Savior is risen – alleluia, alleluia. We have lived for months in fear, anxiety and concern because of the war in Ukraine-Russia, Israel-Gaza, Iran and the uncertainty of gas prices. Some people are still afraid to get out of their home, while others are mourning the departure of a dear family member, still others are living in a foreign country because their homes have been destroyed.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that He is alive, and we no longer die because of our sins. We are so accustomed to hearing that Jesus is risen, and we might say “I know all about it” and miss the whole mystery of Easter. It is because of Easter that the Roman Catholic Church exists, it is on the Holy Night that Eucharist becomes the center of our liturgies and the sure hope that death is not the end.

Easter is a celebration of life. And as the psalm says, “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, ‘His mercy endures forever.’” His mercy has conquered darkness, and His mercy is the sign that we celebrate life today. My dear friends, today we proclaim that poverty, war, political chaos, distrust, misunderstanding, indifference ... have no power over God’s Resurrection.

Jesus Christ is risen today so that the poor and those in the outskirts of society may have Hope.

Jesus Christ is risen today so that we pray for the end of abortion in America.

Jesus Christ is risen today so that people who have become refugees may find a better world and may reach the hope that their country is not offering.

Jesus Christ is risen today so our elders may hope to receive what they deserve in their retirement years: love, company and human presence.

Jesus Christ is risen today so our veterans may hope that they have not fought a lost battle, but are important for today’s freedom.

Jesus Christ is risen today so the wars may end and we find peace in the Risen Son of God

My dear friends, Jesus Christ is Risen Today and He offers what this world cannot: life in abundance. And this is the day that the Lord has made, let all the Earth rejoice.

Fr. Leandro Fossá, C.S.  
Pastor and Rector



## Special Masses & Events

## MAY 2026

Friday May 1  
St Peregrine

6:30 pm Mass for  
all cancer patients and  
survivors with Anointing  
of the sick



Sunday May 3  
Mary's Crowning

12:00 pm English Mass

Sunday May 3  
S. Crocifisso-S. Gio Bosco

10:30 am Italian Mass

SATURDAY

FIRST COMMUNIONS

MAY 9 Mass at 10:00 am

and 1:00 pm

MAY 16 Mass at 10:00 am



Wednesday May 13  
Our Lady of Fatima

6:00 pm Rosary and Mass  
in all languages



Sunday May 17  
Ascension of the Lord

Regular Sunday Mass schedule



Saturday May 23  
Confirmations

Mass at 10:00 am  
and 1:00 pm



Friday May 22  
Feast of St Rita

Pilgrimage Shrine of St Rita  
4:30 pm departure



Saturday May 30  
St Rita Celebration

9:00 am Mass followed by  
Breakfast in the Gym



Saturday May 23  
Pentecost Vigil

7:00 pm Prayer Vigil  
Reception

Friday May 29  
Feast of the Visitation of BVM  
6:30 pm Rosary and Mass  
in all languages



Monday May 25  
Memorial Day

9:00 am trilingual Mass



Saturday May 30  
Scalabrini Day

5:30 pm Mass and Reception



Sunday  
May 31

Feast of the Holy Trinity  
Regular Sunday Mass schedule

St Padre Pio Mass

10:30 am Mass and Reception

1101 23rd Ave. Melrose Park, IL  
(708) 344 - 4140  
www.olmcp parish.org

**OUR LADY OF  
MOUNT CARMEL**

# Special Masses and Events

**JUNE 2026**

## Special Masses & Events

**OUR LADY OF  
MOUNT CARMEL  
PARISH & SHRINE**

**1** *Monday*

*St John Baptist Scalabrini*

6:30 pm Trilingual Mass  
and Blessing with Relic

**7** *Sunday*

*Corpus Christi*

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule  
Blessing with Monstrance at all Masses  
12:00 pm Eucharistic Procession

**11** *Thursday*

*Saint Anthony's Triduum*

6:30 pm Trilingual Mass

**12** *Friday*

*Saint Anthony's Triduum*

6:30 pm Trilingual Mass

**13** *Saturday*

*Saint Anthony's Feast Day*

5:30 pm Mass  
and Reception

**14** *Sunday*

*Saint Anthony's Feast*

10:30 am Mass,  
Relic Procession  
and blessing of the bread

**21** *Sunday*

*Father's Day*

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

**28** *Sunday*

*Mass for Saint Padre Pio*

10:30 am Mass  
and Reception



1101 N 23rd Ave. Melrose Park, IL  
(708) 344 - 4140  
[www.olmcp parish.org](http://www.olmcp parish.org)



LET US CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF  
**ST. RITA**  
*"Patroness of the Impossible"*  
Holy Mass - Breakfast & Pilgrimage

**Saturday, May 30th, 2026**  
**Holy Mass - Breakfast**  
9:00 am Mass followed by Breakfast in the Gym  
Reservations are needed for the breakfast  
\$10.00 Donation

**Friday, May 22nd, 2026**  
**Pilgrimage to the Shrine of  
St. Rita of Cascia**  
Mass Celebration • Tour of the Relics • Reception  
4:30pm Bus departs from Mount Carmel Parish  
\$22.00 per person

Please call Lucia at 312-860-2530  
or Parish Rectory to register.  
**Sign up is required**

**Deadline for Registrations  
Friday  
May 15, 2026**

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

**OUR  
LADY  
OF  
MOUNT  
CARMEL  
PARISH &  
SHRINE**

*Special  
Masses  
and  
Events*

Call  
**(708) 344-4140**  
for more  
information.

*I Fedeli di Padre Pio  
ed la Parrocchia Nazionale Italiana  
"Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church"  
Organizzano*

CELEBRATION OF THE  
**FESTA DELLA  
REPUBBLICA  
Italiana**



**SUNDAY, JUNE 7**

— SAVE THE DATE —

*All Associations and Congregations are warmly invited  
to join us in celebrating the Italian National Day.*



*St Anthony  
FEAST 2026*

*Tridium*  
**Thursday, and Friday  
June 11 & 12  
6:30pm trilingual Mass**

*Actual Feast Day*  
**Saturday, June 13  
5:30 pm Mass & Reception**

*Feast Day*  
**Sunday, June 14  
10:30am Mass  
followed by Procession and Reception**

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine  
1101 N. 23rd Ave. • Melrose Park**

OUR LADY OF  
MT. CARMEL 133RD FEAST

*SAVE THE DATE*

NOVENA  
JULY 10-18

FR.  
JOSEPH  
TITO

10-19  
JULY

JULY 14 BANNER PRESENTATION

JULY 15 ROSE  
PRESENTATION

JULY 16 MEMORIAL SERVICE  
FEAST MASS PRESIDED BY  
BISHOP JOSÉ MARÍA GARCÍA MALDONADO

JULY 19 FIELD MASS PRESIDED BY  
BISHOP LARRY SULLIVAN, FR. JOSEPH TITO AND FR. LEANDRO FOSSÁ, CS



708-344-4140  
WWW.OLMCPARISH.ORG  
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OLMCPARISH  
FEAST.OLMC@GMAIL.COM

# 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*



**Village of Melrose Park**  
**Jessica Fese, Office of the Village Attorney**  
**(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4487**



## MELROSE YARD SERVICES

### PLANTING

Evergreens • Shrubs • Flowers  
Trees • Sod • Seed

### INSTALLATION

Pavers • Retaining Walls • Lighting  
Decorative Stone/Mulch

### MAINTENANCE

Lawn Service • Fertilization  
Bush Trimming • Cleanups

### SUBCONTRACTOR

Concrete/Asphalt Driveways  
Lawn Sprinkler Systems

**MICHAEL  
KESSLING**

Over 35 Years Experience

**(708) 280-4448**

## 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](http://www.ilsos.gov).**

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

Alexi Giannoulas  
Secretary of State





# SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH



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

PHONE: 708-344-0757

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### First Friday Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Mass every First Friday of the month **7:30pm**.

Upcoming date: June 5 at St. Eulalia.

### Adoration & Anointing of the Sick on MAY 14

**7:00pm** at **Sacred Heart**.



### Thursday Adoration and Confession at 7:00pm

**May 14** & **May 28** and **June 11** & **June 25** at **Sacred Heart**.

**May 7** & **May 21** and **June 18** 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**.



### Upcoming Women's Club Meetings JUNE 4

**7:00pm** at **Sacred Heart's Marian Hall**. Bring a snack to share!

### SAVE THE DATE for the Feast of Sacred Heart

This year the **Feast of Sacred Heart** is on **Friday, June 12**.

More info will be available in the future. Call our Parish Rectory office at **708-344-0757** for details.



Join us for our weekly Masses at Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish. Below are our weekly Mass times. For more information, please visit our website at [shsparish.org](http://shsparish.org) or call our Rectory office at **708-344-0757**.

**Weekdays** **8:00am English** at **Sacred Heart**

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

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

# Illinoisans Invited to Join Statewide Storytelling Initiative 'Illinois Voices 250' with Illinois Humanities and StoryCorps Studios

## Time Capsule of Illinois Stories and Reflections will Honor Nation's 250th Birthday

The Illinois America 250 Commission invites people from across Illinois to participate in Illinois Voices 250, a statewide effort to record conversations with residents as part of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*. Recorded conversations will be preserved at the U.S. Library of Congress.

The initiative is led by the Illinois America 250 Commission in partnership with Illinois Humanities and StoryCorps Studios. Illinois Voices 250 is the most expansive effort yet to ensure Illinois' commemoration of the nation's birthday is inclusive, accessible and statewide.

People can participate in public community recording events happening around the state or use the do-it-yourself option online at [il250.org/il-voices](http://il250.org/il-voices). There is no fee to participate.

"The story of America isn't complete without the story of Illinois. Our people's diverse perspectives, reflections and personal narratives deserve to be shared and preserved for generations to come," said Gov. JB Pritzker. "I encourage Illinoisans of all backgrounds to tell their unique stories as the nation marks 250 years of history and resilience."

"Illinois Voices 250 is an opportunity to honor the full story of our state by lifting up voices from every corner of Illinois," said Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton. "When we take the time to listen to one another, we build stronger communities and a deeper understanding of who we are and where we're going. I encourage everyone to take part and share their story as we commemorate this historic milestone."

Community recording dates will be posted online.

"Illinois Voices 250 is an invitation for all Illinoisians from every corner of the state to share, in their own words, what matters the most to them about our nation's 250th birthday," said state Sen. Doris Turner of Springfield, who is a member of the Illinois America 250 Commission. "From all 102 counties, we're creating one statewide archive and this collection of stories will carry us forward into America's next 250 years."

StoryCorps is an independent, nonprofit organization that shares select stories with the public through weekly broadcasts, a podcast, animated shorts, digital platforms and best-selling books. The organization is committed to the idea that everyone has an important story to tell and that everyone's story matters.

Founded in 2003, StoryCorps has helped more than 700,000 people across the country have meaningful conversations about their lives. These recordings are curated in the U.S. Library of Congress and in StoryCorps' online archive, which is now the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered.

"This partnership with Illinois Humanities reminds us that everyone's stories matter, which is the foundation of StoryCorps," said StoryCorps CEO Sandra Clark.

Illinois Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides grants to community-based history, heritage and cultural organizations, and free public humanities programs to help residents be creative, connected and in community.

Illinois Humanities is grounding its 2026 programming in the belief that "history belongs to all of us." The organization's work around the semiquincentennial invites Illinoisans in small towns, rural communities, suburbs and cities to reflect on the ideals at the heart of the *Declaration of Independence* and consider what democracy, belonging and civic participation mean today.

"From now through August, Illinois Humanities will travel across the state to record conversations with people from all 102 counties. Thanks to our collaboration with StoryCorps Studios, we will archive the stories in the Library of Congress," said Robert White, senior director of programs at Illinois Humanities. "We're excited to invite all residents to contribute to this extraordinary time capsule of voices being preserved for future generations."

The Illinois America 250 Commission was established by state law to organize an inclusive, statewide celebration that uplifts local stories, highlights significant places and programs, and showcases how Illinoisans bring to life the ideals of the *Declaration*. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which manages state historic sites and the Illinois State Museum, provides administrative support to the commission.

Other signature Illinois programs for the 250th commemoration include limited-edition keepsake tourism passports, available currently at libraries and visitors' bureaus around the state; Illinois United in Service, a statewide call to action sponsored by Serve Illinois to encourage meaningful volunteer work; and public art grants to organizations across the state for public art installations.

"'We the People' has always been an unfinished story – one that grows stronger every time a new voice is heard," said Gabrielle Lyon, chair of the Illinois America 250 Commission and executive director of Illinois Humanities. "Illinois Voices 250 is yet another way we are ensuring we put Illinoisans and their contributions at the center of our commemoration of the 250th anniversary of America."





# PROVISO TOWNSHIP BRIEFS

4565 HARRISON ST., HILLSIDE IL • (708) 449-4300 • WWW.PROVISO TOWNSHIP.COM

## Trustee Tom Olson Garners Top Award for Service to Community

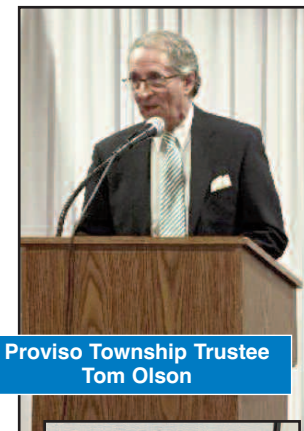
The 2026 Public Service Leadership Award from the Italian American Political Coalition was recently presented to Tommy Olson for his lifelong, unwavering dedication to advancing society at all levels of government.

“Tommy Olson has lived a life as a pillar of his community,” said Proviso Township Supervisor Mike Corrigan. “His dedication to education, community growth, youth programs and numerous health initiatives sets him apart as a true leader dedicated to improving the life and well-being of everyone he touches.”

Olson, a lifelong resident of Melrose Park, has dedicated his career to community development, education and public service. He currently serves as a trustee of Proviso Township and as president of the Veterans Park District Board of Commissioners. Olson is also president of the Triton College Foundation.

“I am honored and humbled to receive this auspicious award,” Olson said during the annual Heritage Celebration Dinner of the Italian American Political Coalition. “I would not be here without the unwavering support of my family, friends and colleagues who have shown me the way to live my life.”

Olson’s commitment to local education and health initiatives is also reflected in his roles as a current board member for the School District 89 Education Foundation and the Proviso Public Partnership, and as a former board member of the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission. In recognition of his impactful leadership and service, he was named an inaugural honoree on the Triton College Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame in 2015 and received the Grand Corridor Chamber of Commerce’s Diamond Anniversary Community Advancement Award in 2020. Olson is a parishioner at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Melrose Park.



Proviso Township Trustee Tom Olson



## Here’s Some Exciting Proviso Township Events and Offerings – Please Join In!

**Proviso Township invites you to our SHREDDING EVENT**

**Saturday, May 30, 2026**  
**9 AM to 12 PM**

4565 Harrison St. • Hillside, IL 60162

**Bring those documents you no longer need!**  
**Limit four boxes per car. 30 Lb. max per box.**

Michael A. Corrigan, Supervisor | Anthony “Tony” Williams, Clerk | Steven J. Zawaski, Assessor  
Trustees: Gay F. Chase, Evelyn Chavez, Joseph Christopher, Tommy Olson

### LUNCH AND LEARN: ASSESSOR PRESENTATION

Come and join us for a great presentation by the Proviso Township Assessor’s Office.

**Wednesday, June 10, 2026 | 10 AM**  
**4565 Hillside St. Hillside, IL**

**Are you receiving all the property tax exemptions you’re entitled to?**

Many seniors and veterans qualify for savings they don’t know about. Stop by to find out what you may be eligible for. Bring your property tax bill (if available) for the most accurate assistance.

Space is limited; please register at 708-449-4307.

The 30-minute presentation will be followed by a Q&A session, and anyone in need of specific assistance will have an opportunity to meet with an Assessor’s Representative.



### proviso public partnership

The Proviso Public Partnership (PPP) plays an important role in supporting seniors in the Proviso Township community, who are facing mental health challenges. As many older adults experience isolation, grief, or conditions such as depression and anxiety, the PPP works to ensure they are not left to cope alone.

One of the key ways the organization helps is by connecting individuals to resources for social connection. Through wellness programs, and community gatherings, seniors are able to interact with peers, build friendships, and reduce feelings of loneliness. These connections are crucial, as isolation is one of the leading contributors to declining mental health among older adults.

The PPP also helps seniors access mental health resources and support services. By coordinating with local providers, they guide individuals toward counseling, support groups, and other forms of care that might otherwise feel out of reach. For many seniors, simply having someone help navigate these systems can make a significant difference in whether they receive the support they need.

In addition, the PPP promotes awareness and reduces stigma around mental health. By encouraging open conversations and providing education, the organization helps normalize seeking help and empowers seniors to prioritize their emotional well-being.

Through compassion, outreach, and community collaboration, the PPP ensures that seniors dealing with mental health issues are supported, connected, and valued—helping them maintain not only stability, but also a sense of purpose and belonging.

For assistance, please call us at 708-240-4435.

**CASINO DATES 2026**

May 4 - Hollywood Casino in Joliet  
June 3 - Four Winds Casino  
July 1 - Hard Rock Casino in Rockford  
August 3 - Grand Victoria Casino  
September 2 - Rivers Casino in Des Plaines  
October 7 - Four Winds Casino  
November 2 - Wind Creek Casino  
December 2 - Four Winds Casino



# Proviso Township Handyman Program

## Spring 2026 – Proviso Township Handyman News

Do you need to replace your drapes? Do you need blinds repaired or new ones installed? Hand rails repaired or installed?  
Time to open the windows and let the fresh air in!

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

It's time to slide a new filter in your furnace in preparation for summer.

Do you have a rain barrel that needs to be connected to your gutter? We can do that for you!

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**



<b>WE DO .....</b>	<b>WE DO .....</b>
Blinds/Curtain Rods - Install/Repair	Mailboxes - Install/Repair/Replace
Boxes Stored (50 lbs. limit)	Outdoor Furniture - Put Away/Take Out
Carpentry-Minor repairs i.e.: Replace loose/rotten boards	Outdoor Lighting - Repair or Replace (Height Limit of 6 feet)
Caulking - Minor interior only - No removal of existing caulk	Outdoor Water Spigot - Shut Off/Turn On
Ceiling Fans - Repair Switches Only	Picture - Hang Only
Decks - Minor Repairs Only	Referrals for Tradesperson - Referrals Only Not Recommendations
Doorbells - Repair/Replace Buttons	Screens - Put In/Take Out (Limit 6 feet)
Door Locks - Repair/Replace	Shower Heads - Repair/Replace/Install
Door Sweeps - Repair/Replace/Install	Shower Wands - Repair/Replace/Install
Doors - Plane, Repair/Replace Hinges	Sink Drains Pipes & Stoppers - Repair or Replace
Electrical Outlets & Switches - Replace	Smoke Detectors/CO Detectors - Install or Replace Batteries
Electrical GFCI Outlets - Replace & Install	Storm Doors - Repair (No Installations)
Faucets - Repair or Replace	Storm Windows - Put In/Take Out (Limit 6 feet)
Furniture Assembly (Small pieces only) (no IKEA)	Supply Valves - Replace, Kitchen & Bath Only
Furniture Moving - 50 lbs. limit	Threshold - Repairs & Replacement
Furniture Repair - Minor Only	Toilets - Minor Repairs - <b>No Rodding</b>
Grab Bars - Install or Replace	TV/TV Converter Box - Install & Program (NO Comcast)
Handrails - Install or Replace	Weather Stripping - Doors & Windows
Light Bulbs - Change	
Light Fixtures - Repair or Replace	

**PROVISO TOWNSHIP – Your Neighbors, Your Government**

**MICHAEL A. CORRIGAN, SUPERVISOR**

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

**Gay F. Chase, Trustee • Evelyn Chavez, Trustee**

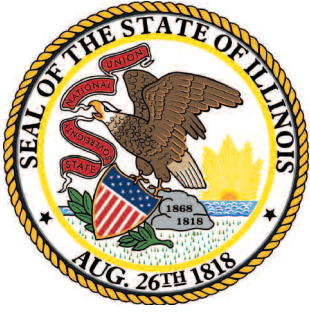
**Joseph Christopher, Trustee • Tommy Olson, Trustee**

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

**Thank You Mayor Serpico!**



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



*Illinois State Representative*  
**NORMA HERNANDEZ**

*77th District*

## **State Rep. Norma Hernandez: A Message to My Constituents**



*Illinois State Representative  
Norma Hernandez*

To my constituents here in the IL-77 District, Happy spring! May is here, bringing longer days, warmer weather and a renewed sense of energy across our community. It's a great time to reconnect, reflect and look ahead. There are many opportunities to come together this season. Whether you're spending time outdoors, with loved ones or in your neighborhood, we hope you enjoy all that spring has to offer.



I have been in session, going back and forth to the district, and every week. Bills are getting referred to their committees, we are hearing from various advocacy groups, leaders are sharing their legislative priorities and we are passing bills in the house!

Keep reading for a recap of my work in Springfield so far!

## **Springfield Recap**

One of my bills, HB 4559, recently passed out of the Judiciary Criminal Committee and is now advancing to the House floor. As we are currently in third deadline week, any bills we want to move forward must pass this week in order to advance to the Senate. HB 4559 would create paths for incarcerated individuals to receive sentencing credit during their time in county jail by explicitly including county jail or detention facility work assignments and parenting programs as eligible credit-earning programs for sentence reduction.

Another bill I am currently working on is HB 4894, the Digital Ad Tax. This bill imposes a tax on the portion of a person's annual gross revenue that is derived from digital advertising services in the state if the person's total revenue derived from digital advertising in the state exceeds \$150,000,000. Provides that the tax is imposed at the rate of 10% of the annual gross revenues derived from digital advertising services in the state. Effective immediately.

Building on this, I am also advancing HB 3646. This bill is about making sure Illinois is prepared for the rapid rise of artificial intelligence and that we are approaching it in a thoughtful, responsible and inclusive way. Right now, AI is evolving faster than our traditional policymaking processes. If we want to govern it effectively, we need structures that can keep up.

This bill strengthens the existing Generative AI and Natural Language Processing Task Force by allowing it to meet more flexibly, including virtually, and to report regularly on its findings. That may sound simple, but it's important.

First, it modernizes how we approach oversight. Hybrid meetings mean we can bring in experts, community voices and stakeholders from across the state without barriers. That leads to better, more informed policymaking.

Second, it increases transparency and accountability. By requiring ongoing reporting to the governor and General Assembly, we ensure that we are staying informed on both the opportunities and the risks of AI from economic growth to concerns around bias, privacy and workforce impacts.

And third, it centers inclusion. If AI is going to shape our economy, our schools and our public services, then our communities, especially those most impacted, deserve a seat at the table in shaping how we move forward.

This bill does not try to solve every issue related to AI. Instead, it lays the groundwork. It ensures we are building policy based on real-time information, collaboration and a clear understanding of how these technologies are impacting our residents. This is about being proactive instead of reactive and making sure innovation and responsibility go hand in hand.



# Third Annual Mujeres Business and Fitness Fair

In honor of Women’s History Month, our office proudly hosted our third annual Mujeres Business and Fitness Fair at Bulger Park in Melrose Park. We are grateful to the Veterans Park District for partnering with us to make this event impactful and a meaningful way to connect with and serve our community.

This event focused on uplifting women through an engaging panel discussion, increasing the visibility of small businesses in Melrose Park and the surrounding areas, and offering a variety of fitness classes for all to enjoy.

This event is a reminder that when we intentionally invest in women – by creating spaces for their businesses to grow, prioritizing their health and well-being, and amplifying their voices – we are building stronger, more connected communities. When women have access to resources, visibility and support, that impact extends far beyond the individual, reaching families, neighborhoods and future generations.



## Superintendent Roundtable

We recently met with our in-district superintendents to discuss the most pressing needs facing our schools, address school-specific challenges and hear directly from leaders on what support is needed most right now. The conversation provided an important opportunity to not only share updates, but also to better understand the day-to-day realities within each district – from staffing and funding needs to student support services and long-term planning priorities.

These discussions are essential in ensuring that our work at the state level remains grounded in what is actually happening in our schools. I am committed to continuing this collaboration so that we can identify practical solutions, strengthen resources for educators and students, and ensure that every district has the support it needs to thrive – both now and in the future.



## Museum Pass

### Did You Know Our Office Can Help You Access Museums Across Illinois for Free?



Through the Museums in the Park Program, constituents of the 77th District may request a museum pass that provides complimentary admission to participating state museums, including Adler Planetarium, Art Institute of Chicago, Brookfield Zoo Chicago, Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago Children’s Museum, Chicago History Museum, DuSable Black History Museum, Field Museum of Natural History, Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, Lincoln Park Zoo, Museum of Contemporary Art, National Museum of Mexican Art, National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and Shedd Aquarium.

If you are interested in requesting a pass, please contact our office at [district@repnormahernandez.com](mailto:district@repnormahernandez.com).



## News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

# Giannoulias Debuts Chicago Fire FC License Plate

In advance of the Chicago Fire's Feb. 28 home opener at Soldier Field, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced that Illinoisans can now purchase the team's specialty license plate.

"In Illinois, we're passionate about our sports teams and now Chicago Fire fans can show their team pride every time they hit the road," Giannoulias said. "The Chicago Fire plate not only celebrates the state's premier soccer team, but also supports charitable opportunities for kids across Illinois, making a positive impact that goes far beyond the game itself."

"This is more than a license plate – it's a badge of pride," said Dan Moriarty, chief marketing officer for Chicago Fire FC. "We're excited to give our fans a new way to represent the Fire and show their love for the club wherever they drive – whether to a match or the grocery store."

Illinois vehicle owners can order a Fire plate through the Pick-a-Plate Program. Featuring the team's official logo and colors, the plates allow fans to proudly display their support while driving. They can be personalized and are available for passenger vehicles, B-trucks (pickups, vans and SUVs), motorcycles and recreational vehicles.

To order a Chicago Fire specialty plate, visit Pick-a-Plate (<https://apps.ilsos.gov/pickaplate/>), select the Chicago Fire design, and follow the instructions to customize and purchase your plate. For details on specialty plates and other Secretary of State services, visit [ilsos.gov](https://ilsos.gov). Standard registration and specialty plate fees apply.



Founded in 1997, the Chicago Fire Football Club is a Major League Soccer team based in Chicago and named in honor of the city's resilience following the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Last season marked the club's first postseason appearance since 2017, its first playoff victory in more than a decade, and a ninth-place finish in the Eastern Conference – signaling a new era of growth on and off the pitch.

**To learn more, visit [www.ilsos.gov/mobile](https://www.ilsos.gov/mobile).**

# Giannoulias Warns Illinoisans: New Week; New Scam New Texts and Calls Posing as Secretary of State Hitting Phones

**The Office Urges Consumers to Report Scam Attempts to [scamalert@ilsos.gov](mailto:scamalert@ilsos.gov)**

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias is warning motorists across the state about a growing wave of scam texts and phone calls impersonating the Secretary of State's office and attempting to trick residents into sending money or sharing sensitive personal information.

Recently, the scammers have resorted to new text threats and even phone calls claiming to be from the Secretary of State's office alleging Illinoisans have been delinquent in paying tolls. The messages threaten that failure to pay will result in penalty fees, suspension of driving privileges, and vehicle registration and legal action.

To raise public awareness, Giannoulias launched a statewide consumer protection campaign – Don't Click. It's a Trick – urging Illinoisans not to click on any links. Giannoulias emphasized that neither the Secretary of State's office nor the DMV ever send text messages requesting payment or threatening penalties.

"Scammers are using every tool they can – texts, phone calls and fake websites – to pressure people into handing over money and personal information," Giannoulias said. "They want to create fear, confusion and urgency so Illinoisans act before they think. Don't fall for it. If you get a text or call claiming to be from the DMV and demanding payment or threatening consequences, it's a scam."

Giannoulias' office also created a new email to report the scam texts – [scamalert@ilsos.gov](mailto:scamalert@ilsos.gov). Illinoisans are encouraged to screenshot the text and email to the Secretary of State's office, which is working with law enforcement to identify and take down the scammer websites.

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### What to Do if You Receive a Suspicious Text

- Never click links in unsolicited DMV texts. • Never send money or personal information. • Report the message to [scamalert@ilsos.gov](mailto:scamalert@ilsos.gov).
- Delete the message immediately.

The Secretary of State's office only sends text messages to remind customers about scheduled DMV appointments. It does not send texts or make calls related to driver's license status, vehicle registration issues or enforcement actions.

# Giannoulas Secures Nearly \$950,000 for Illinois Investors in a \$19 Million Settlement

## Five Broker-Dealers Charged Unreasonable Commissions on Small-Dollar Trades

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas announced nearly \$950,000 will be returned to Illinois investors as part of a \$19 million multi-state settlement involving five major brokerage firms accused of charging unfair fees on small stock trades.

The firms – Edward Jones, LPL Financial, RBC, Stifel and TD Ameritrade – were found by regulators in multiple states to have charged unreasonably high commissions on small-dollar trades during a five-year period, hurting everyday investors. The settlement was part of a broader enforcement action coordinated through the North American Securities Administrators Association's (NASAA) Broker-Dealer Section, which included assistance from the Illinois Secretary of State's Securities Division.

"These settlements send a strong message that financial firms must treat investors fairly and follow the law," Giannoulas said. "Small Illinois investors should not lose large shares of money because of unfair fees that can take a significant bite out of their investments and savings. Our office remains committed to protecting Illinois investors and holding firms accountable when they violate securities laws."

As part of the Illinois settlements, the firms must: return money to impacted Illinois investors; stop their improper fee practices; and pay \$175,000 in fines to the state. In total, Illinois investors will receive at least \$948,551.

Affected Illinois investors will be notified directly by mail by the brokerage firms before payments are issued. Under the terms of the settlements, restitution is expected to be distributed on a rolling basis this spring and summer.

- Edward Jones will provide \$654,428.95 in restitution to Illinois clients and pay a \$100,000 fine to the department. Regulators found the firm charged unreasonable commissions on approximately 781,240 equity transactions nationwide totaling \$11,287,504 from May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2025. Of those, 45,228 transactions involved Illinois residents. Edward Jones customers are expected to receive restitution within 180 days of the Feb. 20, 2026 order.
- Stifel will provide \$39,705.79 in restitution to Illinois clients and pay a \$20,000 fine to the department. The firm charged unreasonable commissions on approximately 45,352 equity transactions nationwide over a five-year period, including 2,078 transactions involving Illinois residents. Stifel customers were due to receive restitution within 60 days of the Oct. 21, 2025 order.
- LPL Financial will provide \$124,665.76 in restitution to Illinois clients and pay a \$20,000 fine to the department. Regulators found the firm charged unreasonable commissions on approximately 127,527 equity transactions nationwide from March 20, 2020 to March 20, 2025, including 3,534 transactions involving Illinois residents.
- RBC will provide \$99,264.25 in restitution to Illinois clients and pay a \$20,000 fine to the department. The firm charged unreasonable commissions on approximately 89,900 transactions nationwide over a five-year period, including 26,621 transactions involving Illinois residents. RBC customers will first receive notice within 45 days of the March 30, 2026 order, with payments due within 30 days after that.
- TD Ameritrade will provide \$30,486.68 in restitution to Illinois clients and pay a \$15,000 fine to the department. Regulators found the firm charged unreasonable commissions on approximately 84,618 transactions nationwide from June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2023, including 2,325 transactions involving Illinois residents.

In most cases, firms are expected to mail notification letters about a week before restitution checks are sent or investors receive credits to their account. If a notification letter or payment is returned as undeliverable, the firm must notify the Illinois Secretary of State's Securities Department and make a second attempt if an updated address is available. If no valid address can be confirmed, the funds will be transferred to the Illinois State Treasurer's Unclaimed Property Division.

Small investors, or retail investors, are individual, non-professional investors who buy and sell securities, mutual funds and exchange-traded funds through brokerage accounts, often through small-dollar transactions. Regulators found that excessive commissions on those trades disproportionately harmed smaller investors.

Giannoulas encouraged investors with questions or concerns about their investments or financial professionals to contact the Illinois Secretary of State Securities Department at (800) 628-7937. The Securities Department licenses and regulates financial services in Illinois and works to ensure compliance with state securities laws. Additional information about the Securities Department is available at [www.ilsos.gov](http://www.ilsos.gov).



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

# **Treasurer Michael Frerichs Opens 2026 Cream of the Crop Photography Contest for Young Illinois Residents**

## **Top Winners Will Receive \$1,000 Bright Start College Savings Scholarships**

### **Key Points**

- Young people ages 8 to 18 are eligible for the photo contest, which focuses on Illinois agriculture.
- First-, second-, and third-place winners in each of three age categories will receive Bright Start Scholarships of up to \$1,000.
- Entry deadline is June 12, 2026.

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs is calling on young Illinois photographers to submit their agriculture-related photos for the 2026 Cream of the Crop Photography Contest. Winners in three different age categories will be awarded Bright Start college savings account scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$1,000.

The contest entry deadline is June 12, 2026. The competition, now in its 14th year, provides students ages 8 to 18 with a creative opportunity to share their vision of agriculture in our state.

“I enjoy hosting this contest each year because it inspires students to go out and explore the beauty of Illinois agriculture while also displaying their creative talents,” Frerichs said. “Illinois is home to skilled and dedicated farmers, millions of acres of fertile farmland and a diverse range of products, all of which make us a leader in the agricultural industry.”

The Treasurer’s Office is now accepting electronic submissions for the Cream of the Crop Photo Contest, visit <https://www.illinoistreasurer.gov> for details. Each participating student may submit up to two photos by June 12, 2026.

A panel of outside judges will choose the top photographs in three age-based categories: ages 8-10, 11-14 and 15-18. Bright Start Scholarships of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 will be awarded to students who place first, second or third in each of the three categories.

To read the rules, terms, and legal conditions associated with this contest, visit <https://www.illinoistreasurer.gov> or contact Teri Whitfield at (217) 900-0075.

Now in its 14th year, the photo contest offers Illinois students an opportunity to showcase their most innovative or scenic pictures that depict their vision of agriculture in our state. Nearly 900 students have participated in the contest since it debuted in 2013 and they have submitted almost 1,600 photos.

The Cream of the Crop Photo Contest is part of the Illinois state treasurer’s Ag Invest Program. Winning photos will be featured in Ag Invest marketing material and next year’s Cream of the Crop calendar, as well as at the 2026 Illinois State Fair.

Ag Invest is one of the nation’s largest agricultural linked deposit programs, celebrating 43 years in 2026. It helps hundreds of Illinois farmers and agriculture professionals. The Treasurer’s Office, through Ag Invest, partners with eligible financial institutions to offer farmers and ag businesses operating lines of credit and long-term, low-interest loans which can be used for operating costs, equipment purchases, construction-related expenses and livestock purchases.

# **State Treasurer Frerichs Announces 250,000 More Illinoisans with Disabilities Eligible for ABLE Accounts**

## **Change in Law Increases Age from 26 to 46**

Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs announced that an estimated 250,000 Illinoisans with a disability are now eligible to open ABLE accounts that allow them to save and invest money to improve quality of life without risking federal benefits.

The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act Congress passed in 2014 required that people had to have acquired their disability before their 26th birthday. A change in the law effective this year raised the age limit to before a person’s 46th birthday, meaning about 6 million more people across the country can start ABLE accounts.

“This is a game changer. The initial law, while vital, unfairly excluded too many men and women based on a random age requirement,” said Illinois Treasurer Frerichs, whose office oversees the Illinois ABLE Program. “We pushed to fix this unjust limitation, and we look forward to providing a tool that so many more people can use to save their own money to increase their independence.”

Before ABLE, people with disabilities could not accumulate assets of more than \$2,000 without endangering their Supplemental Security Income or Medicaid. Money saved in an ABLE account does not count toward that \$2,000 limit.

The ability to save and invest is important because living with a disability comes with many expenses related to assistive technology, housing, transportation, vocational training and more. Before the age limit was increased, people injured in an auto accident, diagnosed with neurological conditions or hurt fighting for their country after they turned 26 were not eligible to open an ABLE account.

Lynn Ludaway of Evanston was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at 36 and learned about ABLE accounts shortly after.

“The savings and asset protection benefits are obvious, but the benefits also include growth opportunities and future planning,” she said. “Families of disabled people deserve to be able to save money for expensive treatment, which usually require out-of-pocket expenses. Disability is inconsistent and unpredictable. I believe society severely underestimates how financially crippling disability can be.”

The ABLE age expansion also is expected to help military veterans. Veterans qualify if they meet Social Security Administration criteria for total and permanent disability, even if their Veterans Administration rating is below 100%. If a veteran does not receive SSA benefits, a doctor can certify their eligibility, according to the ABLE National Resource Center.

Treasurer Frerichs made the ABLE Age Adjustment Act announcement recently at a Chicago news conference along with ABLE account holders and advocates for people with disabilities.

Friends and family also can contribute to an Illinois ABLE account, and balances are capped at \$100,000 without affecting SSI. The accounts offer tax-free investment growth when spent on qualified expenses.

Illinois has 8,500 people with ABLE accounts who have saved \$121 million so far. More information about the program and an application to join ABLE is at the website [illinoisable.com](http://illinoisable.com).

## **Treasurer Michael Frerichs Presents Awards to Eight Illinois Leaders in Honor of Women’s History Month Grammy-Nominated Violinist, CEOs of Feeding America and Northern Illinois Food Bank, Retired Illinois State Superintendent of Education, Special Olympics Athlete Among Those Who Are Recognized for Their Contributions**

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs hosted a celebration to commemorate Women’s History Month and pay tribute to the enduring impact of women in shaping history and benefitting society.

The event, held in the Illinois Room at 555 W. Monroe St. in Chicago, was an opportunity to reflect on the great achievements and ongoing contributions of women leaders in Illinois. The eight honorees included a senior vice president at Old National Bank, the CEO of Feeding America, the president and CEO of Northern Illinois Food Bank, a retired Illinois state superintendent of Education, an Illinois state lawmaker, the director of the Workforce Center of Will County, a Special Olympics athlete who specializes in snowshoeing, and a Grammy-nominated violinist and educator.

“We celebrate these eight individuals who are dedicated to helping others through education, mentorship and service,” Frerichs said. “Through the years, women have made essential contributions to our state and they are still doing that today. Illinois history is rich with women activists, including those who fought more than 100 years ago for women’s right to vote and those who today continue to work tirelessly toward the goals of equity, equality and justice. Thank you all for making our state and our communities better places to live, work and raise a family.”

The origins of Women’s History Month go back more than 100 years. In 1911, the U.S. first participated in International Women’s History Day. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring National Women’s History Week. Seven years later, Congress declared March as National Women’s History Month.

### **Treasurer Frerichs Honored the Following Individuals for Their Outstanding Commitment**

Outstanding Service in Business – Nadine Johnson, Senior Vice President and Specialty Banking Relationship Manager | Old National Bank.

Outstanding Service in Leadership – Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, Chief Executive Officer | Feeding America.

Outstanding Commitment to Community Service – Julie Yurko, President and CEO | Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Outstanding Commitment to Education – Dr. Carmen Ayala, Educational Consultant, Former Illinois State Superintendent of Education.

Outstanding Commitment as an Elected Official – Honorable Diane Blair-Sherlock, Illinois State Representative | 46th District.

Outstanding Achievement in Workforce and Labor – Michelle Stiff, Director | Workforce Center of Will County.

Outstanding Achievement in Sportsmanship – Mallory Marvin, Athlete and Athlete Leader Spokesperson | Special Olympics Illinois.

Outstanding Achievement in Arts and Humanities – Desirée Ruhstrat Violinist, Soloist, Lincoln Trio,  
Adjunct Professor of Violin | Northwestern University Bienen School of Music.

**State Treasurer Michael Frerichs wants to help people be financially secure, so he launched the Illinois Financial Wellness Hub (FinWell Hub) to help all Illinois residents plan a better financial future. Visit [https://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/Financial\\_Education/IL\\_Financial\\_Wellness\\_Hub](https://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/Financial_Education/IL_Financial_Wellness_Hub) for free resources!**



## Worship Night at Walther!

Dear Walther Alumni and Community,

Every so often, God allows us to experience a moment so powerful, so pure and so unmistakably filled with His presence that it leaves a lasting imprint on our hearts. Our recent Worship Night was one of those moments.

Worship Night was an extension of Kickstart – our student-led worship gathering that takes place every Tuesday morning as students come together to seek God, lift their voices in worship, share devotionals and pray to “kick start” their day. On March 20, our students did not simply host an event, they transformed our Multi-Purpose Room into a sanctuary. They created space for the Lord to move and He did. It was truly extraordinary.



Dr. Terence Swims

The atmosphere was sacred. With hands lifted, hearts open and voices singing out in sincere worship, the room was filled with a powerful manifestation of God’s love, power and presence. With the theme of Restoration, there was a tangible sense of refreshing in the room – a vivid reminder that God still meets His people, still restores, still revives and still pours out His Spirit.

As a school leader, I can say without hesitation that this was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had. To be led by our students in worship – to watch young people willingly surrender their Friday night, at the very start of Spring Break, not for entertainment, not for applause, but simply to honor God – was both humbling and deeply moving. I left full... of the Spirit and full of overwhelming pride in our students.

Moments like this remind me why Walther is so special. We are not only committed to academic excellence, opportunity and growth; we are equally committed to nurturing the gifts God has placed inside of our young people. We believe in this generation. We believe God’s hand is on them. Therefore, we will continue to cultivate spaces where their faith can grow, their voices can be heard, their gifts can be sharpened and their purpose can be awakened.

I am more convinced than ever that God has a plan for this next generation and I am grateful that Walther gets to be a part of that formation. I am truly proud to be a Bronco!

- God Bless You All!
- Dr. Terence Swims, Principal

## Advancement Updates



Bill Koehne

Thank you to those who receive and read our *We Are Walther* newsletter.

Three quick updates for you:

- Up until now, this newsletter was published sometime during the first week of each month. Moving forward, so that it easier to find in your Inbox, it will always be available on the first Thursday of the month. I hope you continue to find it informative.
- The *Annual Report* for 2024-2025 is now available digitally. You can find a link on our website at walther.com.
- Nominations are once again open for Walther's Athletic Hall of Fame. Check out the article below for more details.
  - Bill Koehne '87, Director of Advancement

## Walther Athletic Hall of Fame

In October of 2024, Walther inducted seven individuals, two teams, and one coach into its Athletic Hall of Fame. This was the first induction ceremony in 26 years.

Plans are underway for the 2026 induction to be held on Homecoming Day, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026. Nominations are now open for the next class of inductees. To nominate an individual, team or coach, visit <https://www.walther.com/athletic-hall-of-fame/>. Nominations close on May 15, 2026 with the new induction class being selected early in June. Any person or team who has already been nominated stays in the pool of candidates for 2026 and does not need to be nominated again.

To preserve the accomplishments of our rich athletic history, Walther has purchased an interactive display board mounted next to the State Trophies case outside of the Cafeteria. Take some time to stop by and view the exciting information that’s posted.

## Walther Senior Signs Letter of Intent

On Feb. 24, Walther senior Dillon Carey signed a *Letter of Intent* to play baseball next year at North Central University, a Division III school, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dillon shared, "I really like that North Central is in a big city, it is faith based, and has an up and coming program. It fits what I was looking for athletically and academically. Plus, it will be fun joining Brian Dahlstrand (Walther Class of '24) on the team." Dillon plans to major in business and play catcher on the baseball team.



# Walther Alumni Spotlight

On Friday, March 13, 14 alumni, one parent and members of the Melrose Park Police Department were at Walther to speak with our students about their careers. The morning began with a Campfire Worship followed by a keynote address from Sarah Heidloff Ohanesian '01. Sarah implored our students to believe in themselves and not let anyone convince them that they should not follow their dreams. Students then attended four career sessions. The afternoon included a college fair for our students in the Multi-Purpose Room followed by the annual senior-faculty volleyball and basketball games.

Thank you to the following people who took time out of their day to enlighten and encourage tomorrow's leaders:

- Randy Melton '89 - Technology/Business Owner. • Tirrell Robinson '95 – Banking – Business Loans.
- Densus Bishop '96 – Special Agent in Charge USPS.
- Sarah (Heidloff) Ohanesian '01 – Public Speaking/Marketing. • Daniel Saeedi '01 – Attorney.
- Dr. Elizabeth (Eschelbach) Wollensak '04 – Pediatrician. • Perry Brown '09 – Financial Planning.
- Erica (Means) Sierra '09 – Accounting • Joshua Easter '10 – Entrepreneur/Nonprofit.
- Terry Jones '10 – Counseling. • Emmanuel Perez '12 – Counseling.
- Dr. Maria Hill '16 – Pharmacy. • Renata Serpico '16 – Teaching.
- Rachel Wilharm '16 – Physician Associate. • Beatriz Gonzalez – Nursing.

If you are interested in speaking at a future Career Day, contact Bill Koehne at (708) 344-0404, Ext. 230, or [bill\\_koehne@waltheracademy.org](mailto:bill_koehne@waltheracademy.org).



Sarah Heidloff Ohanesian

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**Crane Day – Tuesday, May 5 • 10 a.m.**

**Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)**

Young visitors can learn the facts and folklore about cranes that live in Cook County and throughout Asia through stories, activities and crafts.

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

**Senior Fitness Walk – Wednesday, May 6 • 9 a.m.**

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

Join other seniors for a gentle, moderately paced 1-mile walk. Led by Roberta Janssen, University of Illinois Extension volunteer.

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

**America's 250th: History Hike – Friday, May 8 • 7 p.m.**

**Swallow Cliff Woods-North**

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

Join a hike that explores the stories that shaped our land, people and nation. In partnership with Village of Palos Park Parks & Recreation Department. Starts at Swallow Cliff Pavilion.

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

**World Migratory Bird Day: The Big Sit – Saturday, May 9 • 8 a.m.**

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

Identify and count wild birds in a relaxing way. Learn how to use eBird or iNaturalist to record sightings. Binoculars available for loan. Drop in.

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

**Kite Fest – Saturday, May 9 • 10 a.m.**

**Carl R. Hansen Woods (Sutton Road/Route 59, South of Shoe Factory Road)**

In celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, join us for kite-themed activities, crafts and more. Offsite parking is available at Streamwood High School (701 W. Schaumburg Rd., Streamwood), with free shuttle service to and from the event location.

Cost – Free. Contact – (630) 837-0301.

**Mother's Day Spring Nature Walk – Sunday, May 10 • 10:30 a.m.**

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

Join us for a casual walk and take in the sights, sounds and scents of spring. Family program.

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

**Children's Storytime – Wednesday, May 13 • 9:30 a.m.**

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

Listen to a nature-themed children's book read aloud, followed by an activity. Indoor program.

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

**Open Pond Paddle – Wednesday, May 13 • 2 p.m.**

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

Kayaks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Instruction and equipment provided. Ages 5 and up w/adult. Hosted at Thatcher Glen Pond. Last launch at 5:30 p.m.

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

**I Spy with My Five Senses – Thursday, May 14 • 3 p.m.**

**Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center (Western Avenue and 87th Street, Chicago)**

For children grades 2-8 w/adult, enjoy a scavenger hunt that uses your five senses.

Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 771-9632/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.

**Night Walk – Friday, May 15 • 7:30 p.m.**

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

An evening walk to learn about nocturnal animals. All ages.

Cost – \$5. Contact – (847) 824-8360 (registration required, call for information).

## **Asia-Pacific Animal Connections – Saturday, May 16 • 10 a.m.**

### **Evans Field (Bloomingdale Avenue and Thatcher Avenue, River Grove)**

Visit our interpretive table to learn about the surprising similarities between wildlife in Asia, the Pacific and Chicagoland. Drop in.  
Cost – Free. Contact – (312) 533-5751/centralzoneprogram@cookcountyl.gov.

## **Des Plaines Canoe and Kayak Marathon – Sunday, May 17 • 8 a.m.**

### **Dam No. 2 Woods (Des Plaines River Road, South of Euclid Avenue/Lake Avenue)**

Join the second oldest continual canoe race in the United States! Race begins at Oak Spring Road and ends at Dam No. 2 Woods.  
Cost – Free. Contact – (773) 758-8899/northzoneprogram@cookcountyl.gov.  
Registration required, visit <http://www.canoemarathon.com/>.

## **Restoration Workday – Sunday, May 17 • 9 a.m.**

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

Help us restore habitat and control invasive species. Equipment provided. Ages 12 and up; ages 12-17 w/adult.  
Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 366-6530.  
Registration required, visit <https://volunteer-fpdcc.givepulse.com/event/419785-Trailside-Museum-Stewardship-Volunteer-Days>.

## **Moon in the Twins – Tuesday, May 19 • 8:30 p.m.**

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

Join us for a stargazing night as a waxing gibbous moon glows near Jupiter and Venus in the constellation Gemini.  
Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 839-6897 (registration required, call for information).

# **Chicago Botanic Garden Creating Moments of Joy for People with Memory Loss**

Find connection, creativity and calm in a truly unique setting at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Memory Cafés offer welcoming, nature-based experiences for people living with Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia and their caregivers, creating space to relax and simply enjoy time together. Through activities like flower arranging, herb dish gardens and listening to music, participants can engage in meaningful ways while reducing stress and isolation in a peaceful environment.

For more information, visit <https://www.chicagobotanic.org/urban-agriculture/therapy>.

## **Learn About the Forest Preserve Foundation**

The Forest Preserve Foundation provides support for projects at the Forest Preserves of Cook County that restore these vital lands, eliminate barriers to equitable access, nourish cultural engagement and nurture the next generation of nature advocates.

For more information, visit <https://forestpreservefoundation.org/>.

## **Volunteer Opportunities: Litter Cleanups**

Have you ever picked up a discarded bottle, food wrapper or cigarette butt while walking in a Forest Preserves? Then you’re already a volunteer! From casually discarded cans to intentionally dumped tires, every bit of trash left in the Forest Preserves hurts our natural areas, and the plants and animals that depend on them. Whether you want to help clean up once, every once in a while or make a long-term commitment to your favorite picnic grove, trail or shoreline – we’re here to support you and your group.

For more information, <https://volunteer-fpdcc.givepulse.com/group/927202-litter-cleanups>.

## **Register Now for Trailside’s 2026 Birdhouse Contest**

Spring into creativity with Trailside Museum’s Birdhouse Building Contest, explore the trails and vote for your favorite design.

Join us for our annual birdhouse contest, celebrating creative design and the importance of nesting habitats for local birds. Registered entries will be displayed for visitors to enjoy and vote on, with a range of prizes awarded.

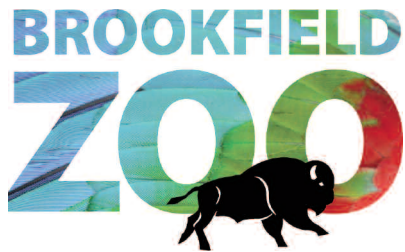
**How to Enter** – Submit your birdhouse now through May 17, 2026. Space is limited, so be sure to submit your entries early.

**Prize Categories** – Most Creative; Best for Birds; Best Kids (under 14 years old); and People’s Choice

**Eligibility** – Everyone is encouraged to enter. Youth groups and participants under 18 must be registered by an adult. Employees of the Forest Preserves of Cook County can enter the contest, but are not eligible for prizes.

For more information, visit <https://fpdcc.com/birdhouse-contest/>.

**Take some time to explore our website at [www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com) for additional events and valuable information linked to the Cook County Forest Preserves experience!**



# News from the Zoo!

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

Here's a list of some incredible current and upcoming attractions. Be sure to check out our website at [www.brookfieldzoo.org](http://www.brookfieldzoo.org) for additional happenings.

Want to make the most of your zoo experience? Become a member and you'll get exclusive discounts to most attractions, not to mention so much more!

## Spring Roars to Life at Brookfield Zoo Chicago with Can't-Miss Experiences Through May

**From Animal Encounters to Glow Wild Nights and Dino-Sized Adventures, Brookfield Zoo Chicago Offers New Experiences and Seasonal Favorites for Guests of All Ages**

As Chicago shakes off winter, Brookfield Zoo Chicago is springing to life with a vibrant lineup of events and experiences through May 2026, and further out – giving guests plenty of reasons to get outside, explore and reconnect with wildlife.

With warmer temperatures, Chicagoans aren't the only ones venturing outdoors more. Guests will have more opportunities to see animals exploring, climbing and soaking up the sunshine throughout their habitats. At the James & Elizabeth Bramsen Tropical Forests, primates can often be spotted outside when temperatures reach 60 degrees Fahrenheit (weather permitting). Guests exploring the outdoor trail can now see how their strength measures up to primates in a new tug of war experience. In the Living Coast, new seahorses will soon make their debut, while the recently renovated Macaws Habitat invites guests to get closer to some of the zoo's most brilliantly colored birds in a vibrant new space.

With Glow Wild in full swing, the zoo is offering both daytime and evening experiences with expanded spring hours. Brookfield Zoo Chicago is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday-Sunday. Its spring evening hours are 6-10 p.m., Thursday-Sunday, until May 10 for guests with Glow Wild tickets.

### Ferris Wheel – Now-Aug. 16

Brookfield Zoo Chicago offers an elevated guest experience with skyline views from the Ferris Wheel. Returning for its third year, the 110-foot attraction offers a five- to seven-minute ride with sweeping views of zoo grounds and animal habitats. Tickets are required for this attraction while visiting during regular zoo hours, but guests can enjoy free unlimited rides with aerial views of the zoo's illuminated lanterns during Glow Wild.



Ferris Wheel

### Motor Safari – Now-Nov. 1

Looking for a guided tour of Brookfield Zoo Chicago? Hop aboard the Motor Safari! This narrated ride around the zoo's 235-acre grounds shares insights about the habitats, conservation efforts and the zoo's history. Tickets must be purchased on site for this attraction, which runs daily.



Motor Safari

### Glow Wild: A Lantern Festival of Hope – Now-May 10 (Select Nights Only)

Chicagoland's first-of-its-kind lantern festival continues to light up Brookfield Zoo Chicago with larger-than-life displays inspired by wildlife, culture and conservation. The Glow Wild experience invites guests to stroll illuminated pathways, enjoy live cultural performances and demonstrations in the Hub of Hope, take unlimited rides on the Ferris Wheel and Carousel – all included with event admission. Glow Wild was developed in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity/Illinois Office of Tourism.

Glow Wild



## Mother's Day Brunch – May 10

Guests can celebrate mothers and mother-figures in their life at Brookfield Zoo Chicago, where the beauty of nature meets the joy of family. Mother's Day Brunch includes a gourmet brunch buffet featuring a blend of both savory and sweet bites, live music, bottomless mimosas for guests ages 21 and over, a special Mother's Day gift and access to explore the zoo grounds. Reservations must be made in advance for 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. seatings on May 10.

## Dinos! – Begins May 22

Something big is stomping into Brookfield Zoo Chicago! Guests can come face-to-face with 35 life-sized dinosaurs in an all-new experience throughout zoo grounds. The Dinos! Experience also includes opportunities to explore a massive rib-cage tunnel, climb on a giant fossil, dig for ancient discoveries, snap epic photos and find prehistoric pals and more – all included with admission or membership during zoo hours.

## Dino Dash Fun Run – May 30

Run alongside dinosaurs at the zoo's new 2-mile fun run! Gather your pack, find your best dino costume and run, jog or stroll through Brookfield Zoo Chicago. All registered participants will receive a commemorative Dino Dash medal and enjoy free admission to the zoo on race day, including rides on the Carousel and Ferris Wheel.

## Animal Experiences – Year-Round, Varying by Seasonal Experiences

Guests looking for an up-close encounter with wildlife can take part in Wild Connections, the zoo's seasonal animal encounters and experiences. A new Reptiles & Amphibians Encounter just launched and runs through June, offering behind-the-scenes opportunities to meet the zoo's cold-blooded residents. Giraffe Feeding Adventures also return for spring weekends, weather permitting. Plus, it's the last chance this season to experience the popular Moon Jelly Encounter, available Friday through Monday, through the end of spring before returning in the fall.

## Zoo Adventure Passport! (ZAP!) – Programs throughout the Year

ZAP! offers multi-generational learning opportunities that foster connections between participants, wildlife and nature through convenient and accessible programming. Community members can learn from science and conservation leaders through virtual programs or by joining the zoo's activations throughout the Chicagoland community – including Chicago's South Side, Cicero, Pilsen and more.

## More Fun to See and Do at the Zoo!

And the excitement doesn't stop in spring. A full slate of summer experiences is on the horizon, including the all-new Dinos After Dark on July 11 and the return of the zoo's annual Roaring Nights Concert Series featuring performances by Melissa Etheridge: RISE on June 7, Blues Traveler on July 24 and Nelly on July 25. Guests can also look forward to new additions in the zoo's southwest corridor with the recently renovated Macaws Habitat and new habitats for a Komodo dragon named Hank, and Galápagos tortoises expected later this year. More information about upcoming events and tips for planning your next visit are available at [brookfieldzoo.org](http://brookfieldzoo.org).

## Ten African Painted Dog Pups Make Playful Debut at Brookfield Zoo Chicago

There's a new kind of energy racing at Brookfield Zoo Chicago, and it comes with oversized ears, wagging tails and a whole lot of personality. A litter of African painted dog (*Lycaon pictus*) pups born on Nov. 25 is now exploring its outdoor habitat at Habitat Africa! The Savannah, giving guests a chance to connect with one of Africa's most endangered predators in an unforgettable way.

The pups – five females and five males – can already be spotted in playful pursuit of one another, darting across the habitat and occasionally piling into a bundle of paws and ears under the watchful eyes of parents Roanne and Kellan. While their movements may look like chaos, these early interactions are building the foundation for something remarkable: the teamwork and tight-knit bonds that define life in a painted dog pack. Guests may also begin to notice that no two pups look exactly alike. Their coats, once darker at birth, are starting to brighten into a mix of black, brown, gold and white, with unique markings.

Prior to their public debut, the puppies were growing behind the scenes under the care and close observation of the zoo's dedicated animal care staff. Guests got a first good glimpse of them through an episode of *Wild Rounds with Dr. Mike*, when Brookfield Zoo Chicago President & CEO Dr. Mike Adkesson took viewers behind the scenes for the litter's first exam, vaccination, identification photos and measurements. Dr. Mike was the zoo's veterinarian when the litter's mom, Roanne, was born and received her first wellness exam at the zoo in 2020.

Moments like these help tell a bigger conservation story. African painted dogs are among the most endangered carnivores on the planet, with fewer than 7,000 remaining in the wild. Their survival is challenged by habitat fragmentation, human-wildlife conflict and disease – making every opportunity to raise awareness and inspire action all the more important.

This litter represents Brookfield Zoo Chicago's ongoing commitment to protecting threatened wildlife and bolstering populations through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE) Program. By connecting guests with species like the African painted dog, the zoo aims to inspire a deeper understanding of wildlife and the role each of us can play in protecting it.

Guests interested in visiting the puppies can do so during the zoo's spring hours – 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday-Sunday. In the meantime, guests and supporters can contribute to the ongoing care of Roanne and her puppies through the zoo's Wildlife Conservation Fund. Donations help support critical conservation work at Brookfield Zoo Chicago and beyond.

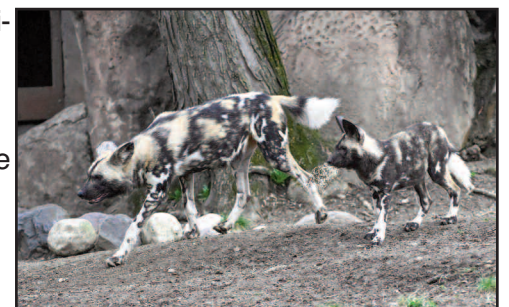


Photo credit – © Brookfield Zoo Chicago.

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

# ComEd Urges Customers to Act Now, and Use Assistance and Energy Management Programs to Manage Bill Costs

## More Than \$108 Million in Financial Assistance and Other Support Options Secured by Customers in 2025 with Similar Support Available Now

Following one of the coldest winters on record in northern Illinois – with the National Weather Service reporting daily average temperatures below normal for approximately 55% of the season – ComEd reminds customers that it has bill-assistance programs available to help manage energy costs.

Through a combination of ComEd-supported, and federal and state programs, along with energy saving tips and programs, families and businesses can access support options to help manage rising energy costs and maintain essential service at [ComEd.com/BillSupport](https://ComEd.com/BillSupport).



“Knowing that many of our customers feel the strain of higher energy bills following a long, cold winter, our immediate priority is to help customers understand what assistance is available right now and how to access it,” said Ajit Apte, senior vice president of Customer Operations at ComEd. “In addition to connecting customers with grants, payment options and information that can provide meaningful relief, we continue working with policymakers and partners on long-term solutions to keep costs down.”

ComEd’s bill-support options are available year-round to help address rising energy supply costs – driven by increasingly extreme temperatures and supply-demand imbalances which account for nearly half of customers’ energy bills – that continue to impact families and businesses. ComEd does not set supply prices, which are passed on without profit to ComEd.

In 2025, ComEd helped connect more than 220,000 customers to over \$108 million in financial assistance and relief programs. This included the \$10 million Customer Relief Fund, which provided bill relief to more than 30,000 ComEd customers. Later this year, ComEd plans an extension of the program, which is launched in collaboration with its parent company, Exelon. To help reduce future bill costs for residential, business and public-sector customers, the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program offers tools, services and discounts to help manage energy use. Since 2008, this award-winning program, one of the largest in the nation, has helped all customers save a total of \$12 billion on energy bills. Using the ComEd Smart Assistance Manager (SAM), residential customers can be matched with these and other support options that best meet their needs.

### ComEd Bill-Assistance Options

Among ComEd’s bill-support options available to customers are:

- **The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**, which provides a one-time grant, per program year, with no payback required, while funding remains available. To be eligible, household incomes cannot exceed 200% of the federal poverty income guidelines which, for a family of four, is \$5,200 a month or \$62,400 a year.
- **ComEd’s Low-Income Discount (LID) Program**, which offers qualifying income-eligible customers percentage-based discounts on their electric bills based on income level up to 300% of the federal poverty level. These discounts build on LIHEAP and are intended to reduce energy costs to 3% to 6% of total household income.
- **ComEd’s Supplemental Arrearage Reduction (SARP)**, which is available to ComEd residential customers who qualify to receive LIHEAP energy-assistance benefits, provides stabilized monthly billing through Budget Billing and lowers a customer’s account balance through arrearage reduction credits.
- **Catch Up and Save** is a two-part program that provides monthly credits to an eligible customer’s bill to eliminate past-due balances through SARP enrollment, 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.
- **Deposit and Late-Payment Charge Waivers** for one year to income-eligible customers, along with the return of any current deposit.
- **Payment arrangements** 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 installment payment in addition to your regular monthly bill.

- **High-usage alerts**, which enable customers to receive alerts when their usage is trending higher than normal to help manage overall energy use, and energy-management tips to help customers manage energy use to save money now and on future energy bills.
- **Peak Time Savings** offers residential customers the opportunity to earn bill credits for reducing energy use during peak usage times. There is no cost to enroll and no penalty for enrolling and not participating.
- **Energy-efficiency offerings**, including award-winning services and incentives designed to help families and businesses reduce energy use now and in the long term.

ComEd’s platform of bill-assistance options support its commitment of The Exelon Promise – a comprehensive, customer-first strategy from parent company Exelon focused on delivering immediate customer relief, strong protections amid growing demand and long-term solutions to address the root causes driving higher costs. This includes the recent introduction of LID and ComEd’s Delivery Time-of-Day pricing rate in January, the latter of which enables households to save money by shifting their energy usage to times when electricity prices are lower and demand is reduced. This also includes support for legislation that resulted in customers receiving bill credits of over \$803 million – or approximately \$13 a month depending on usage – over each of the first five months of this year.

## **ComEd Reinforces Commitment to Fight Rising Energy Costs as Part of “The Exelon Promise”**

### **Customer-First Strategy from Parent Company, Exelon, Delivers Local Relief, Customer Protections and Long-Term Solutions to Ease Burden on Families and Small businesses**

As families and small businesses across northern Illinois continue to face higher energy bills, ComEd recently reinforced its commitment as parent company, Exelon, launches The Exelon Promise – a comprehensive, customer-first strategy focused on delivering immediate customer relief, strong protections amid growing demand and long-term solutions to address the root causes driving higher costs.

ComEd is implementing this shared commitment on the ground, ensuring customers are supported during a period of elevated supply prices. Energy supply prices are increasing nationwide due to a convergence of historic growth in electricity demand, limited energy supply and market dynamics that are keeping prices at record highs. While ComEd does not control supply prices established in regional markets nor profit from their increase, the energy company is responding with practical measures to help limit the impact on families and small businesses.

“The Exelon Promise reflects a companywide commitment to tackling rising energy costs and protecting the customers we serve,” said Gil Quiniones, president and CEO of ComEd. “Across northern Illinois, we are focused on providing safe, reliable energy while doing everything we can to keep costs under control for the communities who count on us.”

“The families we serve are making difficult financial choices every single day,” said Anthony E. Simpkins, president and CEO of Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago. “Access to clear information, reliable assistance and trusted partners matters. ComEd has worked alongside us to connect residents to critical resources when they need them most. Together, we remain committed to strengthening stability and expanding opportunity in our communities,” he added.

#### **Delivering on Affordability Across Northern Illinois**

Under The Exelon Promise, ComEd continues to advance programs and protections designed to help customers manage rising energy costs today, while pursuing lasting reforms that address long-term cost drivers.

**Customer Support** – To deliver immediate relief to customers, ComEd, with the help of Exelon, launched its \$10 million Customer Relief Fund last summer. This one-time fund preceded the Jan. 1 launch of ComEd’s Low-Income Discount Program and Delivery Time-of-Day pricing rate, both of which provide more long-term customer support. These programs join ComEd’s existing support efforts that include flexible payment options, energy efficiency programs, and connection to state and federal programs that help customers manage higher costs now. Additional customer support programs, including those for small- to medium-sized businesses, are being considered.

**Customer Protections** – Implementing the first set of new Transmission Security Agreements that provide strong guardrails to ensure large energy users, including data centers, pay for the infrastructure needed to support their growth, helping shield residential and small businesses from unfair cost impacts.

## Loyola Medicine Allergy Count Returns

As spring arrives in the Chicago area, Loyola Medicine's trusted daily allergy count has returned to help residents manage seasonal allergies. The official Loyola Medicine Allergy Count, compiled at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital provides weekday updates throughout allergy season.

For more than 20 years, Loyola Medicine has delivered one of the region's most reliable pollen counts, offering timely data on tree, grass, weed pollen and mold levels. Allergy sufferers can access the latest counts by following @LoyolaAllergy on X or Threads.



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

"Seasonal allergies can cause much more than sneezing and congestion," said Rachna Shah, MD, lead of the Loyola Medicine Allergy Count. "High pollen levels may also trigger coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath, especially for people with asthma. With the recent unpredictable weather, pollen counts are going to be even more important to help allergy sufferers take preventive steps and reduce symptoms."

### How the Loyola Medicine Allergy Count Works

The allergy count is conducted every weekday morning using air samples collected from the roof of Gottlieb Memorial Hospital. A cubic meter of air is analyzed under a microscope to identify and count pollen grains and mold spores. Daily reports include specific counts for tree, grass, weed pollens and mold, helping patients and clinicians make informed decisions.

### What to Expect During Allergy Season

In the Chicago area, allergy season typically runs from March through the end of September:

- Tree pollen: late March through April.
- Grass pollen: May and June.
- Weed pollen: July and August.
- Ragweed: late August through the first frost.
- Mold: present throughout the season, especially during damp conditions.



For daily updates and allergy management tips, visit [loyolamedicine.org/allergy-count](http://loyolamedicine.org/allergy-count).

## Loyola Medicine Home Care Recognized as a Top Home Health Provider in the U.S.

We're proud to share exciting news about our home health care agency, serving families throughout Chicagoland. Loyola Medicine Home Care has been ranked as High Performing by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2026 Best Home Health Agencies list. This rating places our agency among the top home health providers in the country – in the top 17% of nearly 8,000 Medicare-certified home health agencies reviewed nationwide.

*U.S. News & World Report* reviewed several important measures, including:

- Quality of care and patient outcomes.
- Results from Medicare patient surveys.
- How consistent and reliable the care is.

These measures reflect strong performance in safety, patient satisfaction and overall clinical care.

Being rated High Performing means individuals can feel confident choosing Loyola Medicine Home Care. Our team provides care that helps people:

- Recover after illness, injury or surgery.
- Stay safe and independent at home.
- Maintain or improve their quality of life.

We are grateful to the Chicagoland community for trusting us with your home health care needs.

### What is Home Health?

Home health services provide skilled nursing, physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and clinical support for people who are healing after illness, injury or surgery, helping them recover safely in the comfort of home.



Learn more at [LoyolaHomeCareHospice.org](http://LoyolaHomeCareHospice.org).

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# Nicor Gas Opens Applications for Environmental Stewardship Grants

Nicor Gas is announcing \$100,000 in funding to support environmental stewardship programs, expanding on its commitment to help protect the environment by investing in nonprofit organizations that contribute to clean air, conservation, preservation of green space and sustainable activities.

Qualifying 501(c)(3) organizations may apply for these environmental stewardship grants from Nicor Gas to support their initiatives. Applications at [NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving](https://www.nicorgas.com/CharitableGiving) are open now and close on May 31, with funding decisions by July 31. Selected nonprofits and community organizations will be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in grant funds this year.



"At Nicor Gas, one way that we advance environmental stewardship is by funding community-based projects that improve and preserve local natural resources," said Jackie Nagel, manager of Community Engagement at Nicor Gas. "Through these initiatives, we aim to create lasting, positive impacts on the environments where our customers and employees live and work."

As the largest natural gas provider in Illinois, Nicor Gas is committed to creating, maintaining and sustaining 10,000 acres of cultural, educational and recreational spaces in its service area.

Last year, the company awarded \$100,000 in environmental stewardship grants to 21 organizations. Grants included:

**Oaken Acres Wildlife Refuge & Rehab Center** – Supported the removal of invasive species and brush in approximately two acres of a combination of grass and wooded areas, and planted seeds for pollinators.

**Algonquin Garden Club** – Supported the planting of a Miyawaki Mini Forest in Dundee Township as part of the Mini Forest Alliance. The project featured 270 native trees and shrubs in a small area that boosted biodiversity and ecological health.

To apply for an environmental stewardship grant, visit <https://www.nicorgas.com/company/about-us/charitable-giving.html>. To learn more about Nicor Gas' commitment to the environment, visit [NicorGas.com/Community](https://www.nicorgas.com/Community).

## "Gotta Dig? Gotta Call!" Nicor Gas Reminds Customers to Call 811

With warmer temperatures finally here, many Illinois residents are ready to begin spring home improvement projects. Nicor Gas reminds customers and communities to follow safe digging guidelines and always Dig with C.A.R.E.:

**Call Before You Dig** – Contact 811 or visit [illinois1call.com](https://illinois1call.com) at least two business days before digging, excluding the day of the notice, but no more than 10 days prior to excavation.

**Allow Time for Marking** – Utility companies will mark the approximate location of underground lines with color-coded paint, flags or stakes – yellow indicates natural gas lines.

**Respect the Marks** – Use hand tools only when digging near utility line markings.

**Excavate Carefully** – Keep markings visible throughout the project. If they fade or are disturbed, contact 811 for a re-mark. If a natural gas line is damaged or you smell the distinctive rotten-egg odor, immediately call 911 or Nicor Gas' 24-hour emergency line at 1-888-642-6748 from a safe location.

Whether installing a mailbox or fence, planting trees or putting in a pool, to professional excavators performing work, such as paving, tunneling or blasting, contacting 811 before digging is essential. The call is free and there's no cost to have underground utility lines marked. It's also required by law to help protect people, property and the underground infrastructure that keeps communities safe and connected.

### Customer Pre-Marking Required

Before submitting a locate request, customers must pre-mark their proposed excavation area using white paint, flags or chalk, or through electronic white lining when available. A clear verbal description may also be accepted if it precisely defines the excavation area.

### Protecting Illinois Communities

Nicor Gas maintains more than 34,300 miles of natural gas infrastructure across northern Illinois. In addition to those lines, properties may contain underground communications cables, water and sewer lines, and other utilities. Knowing what's below before digging helps prevent injuries, property damage and service interruptions.

For more information on natural gas safety and safe digging practices, visit [nicorgas.com/811](https://www.nicorgas.com/811).

**To learn more about Nicor Gas, visit [www.nicorgas.com](https://www.nicorgas.com).**

# Obituaries

## **Bentel**

Robert William Bentel, Jr., May 26, 1945-March 27, 2026, 80, of Melrose Park, passed away peacefully on March 27, 2026, surrounded by family. He was preceded in death by his father Robert William Sr.; mother Irene; and brothers, William Marshall and Kurt William Bentel. A proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Robert first worked as a butcher before becoming a skilled locksmith, faithfully serving his community for many years. He is survived by his beloved wife Geraldine "Gerri" Bentel; sons, Robert (Toni) and Anthony (Christina) Bentel; stepsons, Michael (Lucia) and Joseph Tillman; grandchildren, Alexia (Thomas) Atkinson, Haley (Jesse) Dutton, Arianna Bentel, Michael Tillman, Madison Bentel, Mia Bentel, Morgan (Jeremy Starzec) Bentel and Grace (Camden Swearingen) Bentel; great-granddaughter Corie Dutton; sister-in-law Diane Bentel; and niece Rachel. A longtime member of the Kiwanis Club and Lions Club, Robert will be remembered for his devotion to family, generous spirit and loyalty to the Chicago White Sox. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## **Camaioni**

Patricia E. Camaioni, nee Kotal, April 14, 1951-April 19, 2026, age 75 of Melrose Park. Beloved wife of 31 years to Michael; loving mother of Frank Conti and Lisa (Christopher) Soda; beloved daughter of the late Helen and Richard Kotal; proud grandmother of Michael Joseph Soda and Leah Marie Soda; fond sister-in-law, aunt and friend of many. Arrangements by Chapel Hill Gardens West Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## **Ceron**

Roberto Ceron, Jan. 10, 1966-March 17, 2026. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

## **Coglianesese**

Nancy Coglianesese, Jan. 8, 1938-April 7, 2026. Dearly beloved wife of the late Daniel Coglianesese; loving mother of Angelo (Michelle), Lisa, Guy and Danny; beloved daughter of the late Alphonse and Catherine Gerat; cherished grandmother of Ava Catherine, Mary Frances, Donato Vilas and Paige Coglianesese; dear sister of Bob (Sue) Gerat; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## **Del Longo**

Eliot J. Del Longo, Aug. 18, 1941-March 6, 2026. Dearly beloved husband of Danielle Del Longo; loving father of Mary Ann Schneider, Edward Del Longo and Eliot E. Del Longo; beloved son of the late Emilio and Elisabeta Del Longo; cherished grandfather of Scott and Jared Schneider; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

## **Fabela**

Jose De Jesus Fabela, Dec. 7, 1962-March 6, 2026. Jose de Jesus Fabela, also known as Chuy, age 63, passed away on March 6, 2026, in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he had made his home for many years.

Jose was born in Durango, Mexico, to Enrique and Luisa Fabela. From humble beginnings, he carried with him the strong values of hard work, loyalty and devotion to family that would define the rest of his life.

For most of his life, Jose worked in the hospitality industry, a field that suited his generous and welcoming nature. Through dedication and perseverance, he built a career centered around serving others and creating spaces where people could gather and feel at home. At one point, he proudly fulfilled a dream of owning a small Mexican restaurant, sharing his culture and love of food with those around him.

Jose was a devoted husband, father, brother and friend. He was married for 39 years to the love of his life, Susan Fabela. Together they built a life centered on family, support and enduring partnership. He was a proud and

loving father to his three children, Alisha Fabela, Nicklaus Fabela and Jose Fabela Jr., all of whom were a constant source of pride and joy in his life.

Those who knew Jose will remember him as a caring, gentle and loving man. He had a quiet nature, but was always observant and thoughtful, offering steady support to those around him. He was known for his honesty, loyalty and willingness to give to others without expecting anything in return. His calm strength and dependable character made him someone people could always count on.

Jose also had a lifelong passion for sports, especially Chicago teams. He was a devoted Chicago Bears fan and enjoyed following Chicago sports throughout his life. Whether watching a game, talking sports with family or celebrating a big win, those moments brought him great happiness.

Above all else, Jose valued his family. He was deeply supportive of his loved ones and took pride in being present for the people who mattered most to him. His kindness, humility and quiet wisdom left a lasting impact on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Jose is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Susan Fabela; his children, Alisha Fabela, Nicklaus Fabela and Jose Fabela Jr.; and his sisters, Silvia and Norma. He is also survived by many aunts and uncles who were like siblings to him, as well as many friends whose lives were touched by his kindness.

Jose's memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

## **Fruin**

James Edward Fruin, July 24, 1937-March 7, 2026, retired commander of the Chicago Police Department, died peacefully in his home after a long illness on March 7, 2026, with his devoted son Michael by his side. He was 88.

Jim was born on July 24, 1937, to Ethel and James Fruin, joining older sister Ruth in the family. He graduated from St. Ignatius College Prep before serving in the Army then returned home to join the Chicago Police Department. Quickly finding that detective work was his calling, Jim rose through the ranks and became a sergeant, lieutenant, detective, captain and served in multiple districts before becoming commander of Area 5 detectives, where he was known for his dedication, expertise, integrity and strong work ethic. Jim dutifully served the city of Chicago for 33 years. During his time on the force, late night calls to Uncle Jimmy/Mr. Fruin drove his wife Gloria nuts, but they were always answered.

Following his retirement, Jim launched IFPC Worldwide, a global investigative and security firm. Building on his decades of service in the Chicago Police Department, Jim brought together an international network of associates with extraordinary experience in public and private law enforcement, intelligence, investigations, security consulting, research, planning, behavior and law. Jim cultivated his deep and wide network to build IFPC into a highly successful firm. He worked actively with IFPC until the day he died, calling the shots until the very end.

Jim married Gloria Mogni on Nov. 30, 1964, and they spent the next nearly 60 years together, until Gloria's death in 2023. Following his retirement from the Police Department, Gloria and Jim traveled extensively around the world, while their home in Edison Park remained their anchor.

Jim loved red wine, the racetrack, playing the lottery, watching sports, slipping cash to his grandchildren, and, most of all, helping and connecting with friends. If, in a conversation with Jim you heard, "I got a guy," you knew things would be taken care of. His stories were legendary and reflected the adventure, fun and mischief that defined his life.

In addition to his son Michael (Bridget), Jim is survived by his loving grandchildren, Eleanor, Clare and Seamus; nine nieces and nephews, 23 grandnieces and nephews, a growing squad of great-grandnieces and nephews, brother-in-law Ben (Renée) Mogni; and countless friends and colleagues. He was preceded in death by his wife Gloria, sister Ruth, brother-in-law Jack, nephew Jimmy Mogni and grand-nephews, Andrew Mogni and Danny Fischer.

Jim lived a full and vibrant life defined by steadfast loyalty to friends, hard work and guidance for anyone who sought it. In the face of a difficult diagnosis, Jim always remained positive, was never discouraged by his illness and navigated it on his own terms, to his very last breath. He will be greatly missed. Arrangements by Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home.

### **Giunta**

Joseph "Joey G" A. Giunta, Jan. 13, 1961-April 17, 2026, age 65, passed away on April 17, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones.

Born on Jan. 13, 1961, Joseph spent most of his life in Melrose Park, Illinois, and later resided for several years in Wheaton. He was known for his strong will and stubborn nature, traits that those closest to him came to know as part of his character and charm.

Joseph dedicated many years to the food service industry, where he became a familiar and respected face to countless customers. He proudly served as a longtime manager at Johnnie's Beef in Elmwood Park and later at Augustino's Rock and Roll Deli in Carol Stream. He took great pride in his work, especially in making pizza and sandwiches, and built lasting relationships with the people he served.

Outside of work, Joseph was an avid Chicago sports fan, cheering on the White Sox, Bears and Blackhawks. He was also a devoted listener of ESPN AM 1000, especially *Kap and J. Hood*, and was well known for calling into the show regularly. He enjoyed betting on and watching horse racing, one of his favorite pastimes.

Joseph was also a passionate rock 'n roll enthusiast, a die-hard fan of Ozzy Osbourne and Black Sabbath, and someone who truly loved the music that defined his generation.

Joseph is survived by his loving wife Carol (nee Vozella) and his son Joey. Carol lovingly supported him and remained by his side throughout his many ailments and health challenges. He is also survived by his sisters, Diane Olcikas (nee Giunta) and Geraldine Bentel (nee Giunta), as well as many nieces and nephews, including Michael Tillman, Joseph Tillman, Michael Olcikas, Nicole Harms (nee Olcikas) and Rene Hanczar (nee Olcikas), to whom he was a fond uncle.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph L. Giunta and Mamie Giunta (nee Romano).

Joseph will be remembered for his dedication to his work, his love of Chicago sports and rock 'n roll, and the many connections he made throughout his life. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery

### **Gronkiewicz**

Sandra Gronkiewicz, nee Williams, March 5, 1961-March 11, 2026, 65, of Forest Park, Illinois, passed away peacefully at home on March 11, 2026, after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Sandra was born on March 5, 1961, in Chicago, Illinois, to Darven Williams and Anna Lee Campbell.

Sandra dedicated her professional life to caring for others as a registered nurse. Most recently, she worked at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital. Nursing was more than a career for Sandra; it was a calling that reflected her belief in dignity, compassion and service to others.

Outside of her work, Sandra embraced life with enthusiasm and curiosity. She loved traveling, dancing the night away at live music shows, spending time with good friends and taking care of her dogs, Bino and Loki. Sandra was a free spirit who brought joy and laughter wherever she went. Those who knew her often spoke of her sharp wit and sense of humor, but they also knew her as someone who cared deeply about the world and the people in it.

Above all else, Sandra loved her family. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and nothing brought her more happiness than time spent with the people she loved most – especially her grandsons.

Sandra is survived by her husband, Andrew Gronkiewicz; her children, Jason Ritchie and Jennifer Folino (nee Ritchie); and her beloved grandsons, Benjamin and Samuel Folino. She was preceded in death by her sister, Shelly Diane Sherrill.

Sandra will be remembered for her strength, her free spirit and the compassion she showed to everyone around her. Her memory will live on in the many

lives she touched and the family she loved so deeply. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

### **Kessling**

Wayne Kessling, Jan. 26, 1941-April 17, 2026. Dearly beloved husband of the late Darlene J Kessling; loving father of Dawn (Jerry) Zuffante, Michael (Rose), Mark and the late Debbie Widlowski; beloved son of the late Norman (Lucille) Kessling and the late Grayce (Christian) Kraus; cherished papa of John Jr. (Abby), Matthew (Kathleen), Michael, Lauren (Nick), Nicholas and Kody; great-grandfather of Emmy, Sophie and Cole; dear brother of Cyndi (Michael) Hairrell, Norman Kessling and the late Denise Sherman; special companion of Kathy Augustine; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Mount Carmel Cemetery.

### **Loss**

Anthony Joseph Loss, Aug. 24, 1992-March 28, 2026, age 33, a resident of Chicago, passed away suddenly on Saturday, March 28, 2026. He was born Aug. 24, 1992, in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, to Ed and Gail Loss.

Anthony grew up in Roselle, Illinois, and attended Trinity Lutheran Grammar School there and then went on to attend and graduate high school at ICCP in Elmhurst, Illinois. He was an accomplished basketball player during his time there and earned First-Team All-Conference honors along with Honorable Mention All-State. He then went on to attend IIT College in Chicago, where he also played basketball and was their leading scorer. He later received his M.B.A. from Dominican University. Anthony worked in the IT field where he was well respected and was an AWS cloud specialist. He earned many certifications in that field and was currently working as a director of AI. He loved funny movies and time spent with family especially all his cousins. He will be missed by everyone, but we truly believe he is up in Heaven now with his grandma and grandpas, and the rest of his family with a big smile on his face and loving it!

He is survived by his parents, Edward and Gail Loss; his sister Natalie (Kelvin) Mannede; and his nephew Kelvin Jr. Also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins. Arrangements by Hultgren Funeral Home. Interment Mt. Emblem Cemetery.

### **Manzo**

Patricia Manzo, Nov. 26, 1946-March 13, 2026. Dearly beloved wife of Carl Manzo; loving mother of Richard "Ricky" (Gwynn) Jason and Tiffany Manzo; cherished grandma of Micheline Jason and Richard Jason III; dear sister of John (Nancy) Anderson and Linda (the late Ed) Pearson; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

### **Mota**

Howard F. Mota, Nov. 27, 1933-March 20, 2026, age 92, of Melrose Park, Illinois, passed away on March 20, 2026.

Born to Jesus Mota and Carmen Carrillo Mota, Howard grew up in a large and lively family as one of 11 children. The strong bonds formed in that busy household shaped the warmth, generosity and deep sense of togetherness that defined his life.

Howard shared 56 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Marian. Their relationship was filled with devotion, partnership and unwavering love. He remained deeply devoted to her throughout their life together and continued to honor her memory after her passing. Special remembrance to John and Kathleen Simpson for being the kindest and loving in-laws a husband could have. Howard is also lovingly remembered by his sister-in-law Kay Ahlstrom and his brother-in-law Jack Simpson, who preceded him in death.

Howard was the loving father of Jean (the late John) Healy, the late Joanne Mota, James (Jori) Mota, and David (Julie) Mota. He was a proud grandfather to Amanda, Christopher, Robert, Katie, Caroline, Alyssa, Brendan, Tommy, Kevin and Kullen, and he leaves behind nine great-grandchildren who brought tremendous joy into his later years. The favorite uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Howard was a passionate Chicago sports fan, especially devoted to the Chicago Bears and the Chicago White Sox. Cheering for his favorite teams brought him great excitement and football Sundays were among his happiest moments. He also enjoyed spending time with his Thursday lunch group,

meeting at local restaurants to share good food, conversation and camaraderie – something he looked forward to every week. He had many lifelong friends and never met a stranger a man well traveled.

He cherished large family gatherings and celebrations, where his gregarious spirit, warm laugh and loving nature made him the life of every party. Known for his kindness and welcoming presence, he brought people together effortlessly.

He was further preceded in death by his brothers, Jesus, George, Augustine and Joseph, and by his sisters, Elisa, Carmen and Marianne. He is survived by his brothers, Alphonse, Edward and Raymond, who continue to cherish his memory and the lasting bonds they shared.

### **Palermo**

George Palermo, Oct. 1, 1951-March 15, 2026. Dearly beloved husband of Karen Palermo; proud and irreplaceable father to Sarah, Roseann (Peter) and John (Tara); beloved son of the late Frank and Millie Palermo; cherished papa of Maxwell, Ayden, Gavin, Carmen, Harry and Violet; dear brother of the late Frank (the late Diane) Palermo; cherished uncle to many nieces and nephews, trusted member of the plumbing and construction community for over 50 years. George was a friend to everyone he met and was loved by all. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

### **Pizza**

Judy Pizza, nee Mannella, April 10, 1939-Feb. 21, 2026. Beloved wife of the late Gregory Pizza; loving mother of Gregory (Sandra) and the late Linda (James) Inendino; beloved daughter of the late August and Mary Mannella; cherished grandmother of Rosalee (Bob) Breslin, Angela (Kim) Inendino, Madelynn (David) Malone, Francesca (Sam) Frink, Amanda Pizza and Andrew Pizza; great-grandmother of Henry Malone, Charlie Malone, Cody Frink and Luke Frink; dear sister of Joyce (the late Phil) Aranda, the late Rosemary (Jay) Castrogiovanni and the late August Mannella; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven.

### **Robinson**

Sonya Yvette Robinson, Nov. 4, 1961-March 8, 2026, was a beautiful soul! She was thoughtful, generous, loving and most of all, courageous. On Nov. 4, 1961, she was born in Chicago, Illinois, to the union of Edward L. Robinson (who preceded her in death) and Pauletta Robinson. Sonya devoted her life to Christ at an early age; attending church on Sundays was a cherished tradition in the Robinson household. On Nov. 12, 2012, under the leadership of Pastor Ken Hansen, she rededicated her life to Christ and was baptized at Living Water Community Church located in Bolingbrook, Illinois.

Sonya attended Westinghouse High School, where she formed lifelong friendships. After graduation in 1979, she continued her education at Wright College and later transferred to Malcom X College, where she received her Associate in Applied Science degree in radiology. After years of being a radiologic technologist, she further advanced her career by becoming a board-certified CT technologist. Throughout her professional journey, Sonya worked at several hospitals, Louise Burg Hospital, Mac Neal Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital, before finding her professional home at Edward Hospital. Anyone who truly knew Sonya knew that she was an avid reader who loved to laugh, travel, listen to music, exercise, and spend time with her family and friends – especially her nephew EJ and her fur baby Romy. Sonya simply loved and enjoyed life.

In 2023, Sonya was diagnosed with an idiopathic lung disease that required her to have a lung transplant. For two years, she fought with tenacity, determination and courage. On Feb. 27, 2025, she received the long-awaited call from Loyola University Medical Center that her wait was over and a donor had been found. After the transplant, Sonya experienced many ups and downs, but through it all, she handled every challenge with grace and never once complained.

On March 8, 2026, surrounded by her loving family and friends, Sonya's earthly battle came to an end and her new journey of peace began. She leaves to cherish her memory, her mother Pauletta Robinson; her sister Jerri Robinson; her brother Edward (Landon) Robinson, her nephew Edward L. Robinson Jr. (E.J.), her beloved dog Romy, and a host of other relatives and dear friends. Sonya lived a life that mattered, she fought the good fight in only

a way that Sonya could do. She finished her race and kept the faith. May her legacy live on in the lives of all who knew and loved her. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

### **Rodriguez**

Maria Luisa Rodriguez, Jan. 14, 1953-March 18, 2026. Dearly beloved wife of the late Guillermo Rodriguez; loving mother of Martha Theresa, Juan Guillermo, Aydee, Francelia, Marlene, Jose Luis, Selene and Uriel y Victor Hugo Rodriguez; cherished daughter of the late Leocadio Melquiades and Celia Mata; loving grandmother of 24; great-grandmother of 10; loving sister of Guadalupe Melquiades Mata, Benita Melquiades Mata, the late Maria Melquiades Mata, Jose Eduardo Melquiades Mata, Evaristo Melquiades Mata, Lucia Melquiades Mata, Berta Melquiades Mata and Ernesto Melquiades Mata; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

### **Rohaly**

William Edward Rohaly, Aug. 11, 1931-Feb. 28, 2026. Bill Rohaly was born in Chicago during The Great Depression. The child of Hungarian immigrants, he was the first in his family to graduate from high school and he went on to get a degree in agricultural engineering from The University of Illinois – back when it still had a campus at Navy Pier. He served in the Army during the Korean War, met his pen pal while stationed in Germany and married that pen pal in November of 1956. He fathered eight children, (three of whom died due to premature birth), one of whom he had to deliver himself in the back of a taxi and one of whom was adopted from a Hong Kong orphanage. Bill was one of those people who was good at everything. In his case, that meant math and science, writing, carpentry, drawing and cooking. He was a champion at packing suitcases efficiently and packing a car so that everything fit, including the dog. He was good at making friends, at storytelling, at being romantic to his wife and he was good at fathering. He loved to set off on a journey without knowing his destination and he mostly didn't get lost. He had a permanent compass in his brain and he always loved sketching maps. He was well traveled – he visited at least seven countries and almost all of the United States. One could fill a book with all of his accomplishments and another book listing all of his friends. He was devoted to his wife until the day that she died in 2016. Even after decades, he called her his bride. He was brave and strong with an endlessly positive attitude that kept him happy into his old age.

William is preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Julia Rohaly (nee Wigh); his older brother Joseph; his wife Katherine; and their children, Anita, Michael and David. He is survived by his children, Bill Rohaly, Claudia Rohaly, Christopher Rohaly (Cindy), Linda Rohaly (Kevin Connolly) and Julia Rohaly Buckley (Jeff Buckley); his grandchildren, Matthew Rohaly (Annette), Anna Rohaly Marrah (Josh), Thomas Rohaly, Billy Rohaly (Erica), Cashie Rohaly Yzenga (Evan), Joseph Rohaly, Katherine Connolly, Daniel Connolly, Pamela Connolly, Ian Buckley (Laura Kaczmarczyk) and Graham Buckley (Lauren); and his great-grandchildren, Henry Rohaly, Isaiah Rohaly, Nathan Marrah, Lucy Marrah and Amelia Marrah. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

### **Schrader**

Eugene "Wags" A. Schrader, Nov. 24, 1929-March 16, 2026, passed away peacefully on March 16, 2026, at the age of 96. He was born on Nov. 24, 1929, in Chicago, Illinois, to Alfred and Laura Schrader.

Eugene was raised in Maywood and Melrose Park alongside his brothers and sisters. He attended Stevenson Grade School and later graduated from Proviso East High School. Following graduation, he was drafted into the United States Army and served honorably during the Korean War, 1951-1953. He achieved the rank of corporal as part of the 532nd Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment, with assignments in Camp McGill, Japan and Inchon, Korea. His service reflected a deep sense of duty and commitment to his country.

After returning home, Eugene began a long and dedicated career with the American Can Company in Maywood, where he worked for more than 30 years. Known for his strong work ethic, he spent many years working overtime shifts on the rail dock to support his family.

Eugene's greatest joy in life was his family. He first met Louise "Red" in 1950, and their connection was immediate and lasting. Though their early relationship was interrupted by his military service overseas, Eugene never

forgot her. Upon his return in 1953, Louise was there to greet him at Midway Airport and they quickly resumed their courtship. Their shared love of time together – filled with laughter, dancing and family – led to their marriage on March 6, 1954, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Melrose Park. They shared a devoted and loving marriage for 70 years and were blessed with two sons, Rik and Scott.

In 1956, Eugene and Louise purchased their first home on 17th Avenue in Melrose Park, where they raised their family and built a lifetime of memories. Following his retirement from American Can Company after 30+ years, Eugene continued to stay active by working with Veterans Park District, managing facilities in Melrose Park (Bulger Park) and River Grove (Trumbull Park). He deeply valued the friendships and camaraderie he developed there, often sharing stories from those years.

Eugene was an avid and passionate sports fan, rarely missing an opportunity to cheer on the Chicago Bears, Cubs and Blackhawks. He had unwavering confidence in his teams and took great pride in their successes – often engaging in spirited conversations about their prospects. He also enjoyed the occasional wager as part of his love for sports.

Eugene, preceded in death by his wife, Louise (2024), is lovingly remembered by his sons, Rik (Cindy) and Scott; his sisters-in-law, Arlene and Carol; his grandsons, Garrett (Michelle) and Ryan (Kristen); five great-granddaughters; his great-grandson Brody; and another great-grandchild expected later this fall. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Arrangements by Woodlawn Funeral Home & Memorial Park.

**Vicari**

Wilma Vicari, nee Daniels, Nov. 3, 1933-Feb. 23, 2026, 92, was born on Nov. 3, 1933, in Mexico, Missouri, to William and Mary Daniels. She was the oldest of nine. She and her family moved to Chicago in the '40s. There she met the love of her life Lou Vicari at a neighborhood dance. In 1954, they married and had four amazing children, Linda (the late Frank) Gibson, Louie (Fran), Mark (Roxanne) and Ralph (Liz). She has 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter. Wilma was a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend to many. In 1967, she graduated from beauty school and went to work for her uncle's beauty shop. Eventually, she took

over the business and ran the shop until she retired in the '90s. She loved going to the casino, playing cards with family and friends, going to bingo, watching the Cubs and *General Hospital*. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family and always put others before herself. She has said that she has everything she could ever want out of life. Wilma's life was just as beautiful as she was and she will be deeply missed by all. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven.

**Virnich**

Robert "Bob" Virnich, passed away April 4, 2026. Dearly beloved husband of Karen Virnich; loving father of Dennis (Julie) Virnich; beloved son of the late Elmer and Marion Virnich; dear brother of Debra (Ed) Virnich and Sharyn (Lee) Bolivar; cherished uncle of April, Tonia, Cecilia, Richard, Sonona, Joey, Michael, Antionette, JJ, Melanie, Krysten, Bobby, Michelle and the late Tina; loving brother-in-law, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Mausoleum.

**White**

Elizabeth J. White, nee Vece, Feb. 19, 1934-April 13, 2026. Dearly beloved wife of Robert White; loving mother of Kathy (Tom) Hogan, Tom (Elizabeth), and Michael (Sylvia); cherished grandmother and mema of Sarah (Matt) Thomas, Tom Hogan, Natalie (Larry) Clarke, Nicole (Jon Macak) White and Brooke (Joe Knurek) White; great-mema of Jake and Mila Thomas; dear sister of the late George (the late Virginia), the late Billy (the late Dori), the late Carmen (Phyllis), the late Leonard (the late Carol), the late Rosemary (the late Burt) and the late Dolores "Chi Chi" (Bob); loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

**Zangara**

Eric Zangara, passed away April 10, 2026. Loving father of Liliana Zangara; cherished son of Karina (Raul Ortiz) Zangara-Ortiz; proud brother of Sicilia Olvera; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

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