

A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

For 250 years, America's greatness has been a work in progress – built, challenged and renewed by generations who believed the country could become better than it was before. It means holding fast to enduring ideals, building institutions that welcome participation and improvement, embracing talent and diversity, rewarding innovation and coming together in times of challenge.

Dear Neighbors,

This summer, communities across the country will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. I thought I would share my reasons why America is the best country that has ever existed.



Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor

America in 1776 was a small, largely agricultural republic of about 2.5 million people located along the Atlantic coast. Today, we are a continental, highly urbanized nation of more than 340 million people with global influence.

For 250 years, America's greatness has been a work in progress – built, challenged and renewed by generations who believed the country could become better than it was before.

At the heart of the American experiment are the ideals expressed in the *Declaration of Independence* and protected by the *Constitution*: liberty, equality under the law, representative government and the belief that our rights come from our common human dignity, not from the government. These principles have inspired generations of Americans to expand freedom and opportunity, from ending slavery and securing women's suffrage to furthering labor, civil, and disability rights.

America's system of government has also played an important role. The separation of powers and an independent judiciary help prevent abuses of power and provide peaceful ways to resolve disputes. Regular elections, a free press, and protections for free speech and assembly encourage accountability and civic participation. They do not eliminate disagreement, but they help channel it into progress rather than revolution.

Geography has contributed to America's success as well. Fertile land, navigable rivers and plentiful natural resources supported initial agricultural growth and later industrial expansion. The nation's location between two oceans provided protection from many outside threats and allowed the country to develop and grow on a large scale.

America also built an environment that encouraged entrepreneurship, investment and infrastructure. From canals and railroads in the 19th century, to aviation, highways and electrification in the 20th century, to broadband and clean-energy networks in the 21st century, these investments helped fuel economic growth and connect communities.

Almost everyone in Melrose Park is either an immigrant or a descendant of immigrants. Our ancestors, who made the brave decision to come to America in search of a better life, brought skills, labor, ideas and entrepreneurial energy. They also brought traditions, languages and perspectives that advanced American culture and expanded the nation's imagination.

American greatness has also been formed by civic engagement. Volunteerism, philanthropy and local leadership have long helped communities solve problems and meet challenges.

Perhaps most importantly, America's strength rests in its ability to learn, adapt and improve. The nation has endured civil war, economic crisis and social upheaval not because it avoided mistakes, but because it developed ways to confront them. Investigative journalism, independent courts, legislative reforms, public oversight and grassroots movements have all helped push the country closer to its ideals. Constitutional amendments, from the abolition of slavery to the expansion of voting rights, along with landmark laws such as the Civil Rights Act and the GI Bill, broadened opportunity and strengthened citizenship.

None of this erases America's failures or contradictions. Slavery, the displacement of Native peoples, discrimination, gender inequality and policy mistakes are all part of the nation's history. But what makes the American story distinctive is not the lack of flaws – it is the continuing effort to address them.

America's greatness means holding fast to enduring ideals, building institutions that welcome participation and improvement, embracing talent and diversity, rewarding innovation and coming together in times of challenge. As long as those habits endure – and as long as citizens remain willing to debate, compromise and build – the next 250 years can sustain the promise that has inspired the first 250. Happy Birthday, America!

Sincerely,

Mayor Ron Serpico



Check Out
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 Emergency911

Non-Emergency(708) 344-8409

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

Fire Emergency911

Non-Emergency(708) 344-1210

Public Safety/Homeland Security(708) 649-8000

Library(708) 343-3391

Public Works(708) 343-5128

Building and Code(708) 343-4000

Civic Center(708) 450-0555

Hall and Field Rentals, Sports, Etc.

Snow Removal(708) 649-4450

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

Taste of Melrose Park

Dial A Ride(708) 343-7047

Proviso Township Assessor(708) 449-4304

Economic Development(708) 865-8809

Important Upcoming Dates

Village Board Meetings.....July 27, Aug. 24

Village Hall Holiday Closings.....July 3, Sept. 7,

Oct. 12 and Nov. 11

Resident Response

Dear Mayor Serpico ...

On May 11, I needed help moving a heavy piece of furniture.

I called the Senior Center to ask if they could offer any assistance.

Within minutes, John and Joe showed up at my door to save the day.

How lucky am I to live in a community that has such a valuable asset?

From bus rides to entertainment to luncheons to household help, I'm grateful every day for the Melrose Park Senior Center!

• Sincerely,
Barb Geyer

Dear Melrose Park Police Chief Anthony Greco ...

The Forest Park Chamber of Commerce and Development held its 13th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Madison Street in Forest Park on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

The event drew a large crowd of spectators from young to old. All onlookers and revelers appeared to enjoy the 2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade held in Forest Park's central business district.

Participation in the parade by 12 local police departments, including your own, helped the village of Forest Park celebrate the event's 30th year and greatly contributed to its success. This is especially true since your department showcased the best squad car.

Thank you for participating. Your department's presence on March 7, 2026, did not go unnoticed and is sincerely appreciated.

• Sláinte,
Chief Ken Gross, Forest Park Police Department



Dear Mayor Serpico ...

The Melrose Park Senior Exercise Club thanks you for this very important program and for our amazingly awesome fitness instructor, Barb Rubright.

Barb truly cares about our health and safety. She always encourages us to keep our bodies moving, stay active, eat well-balanced nutritional meals, exercise daily, drink plenty of water and recommends frequent medical checkups. Barb reminds us to walk with good posture while keeping focused on our balance safety.

She makes exercising fun with music and laughter, and wants us to enjoy it. Barb treats us with kindness and respect. She doesn't judge us, but constantly encourages us to do our best being careful to stay safe. Occasionally, Barb has us playing light games like Pass the Potato or bouncing balls which keeps our bodies gently moving.

Barb is a good person, very caring and dedicated to her seniors. We are in our 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s, and we are grateful to Barb for her commitment to us Monday through Friday, and for her exhilarating and revitalizing our Golden Years while having fun doing it.

We love our Barbie and we love the Melrose Park Senior Exercise Club. Thank you, Mayor Serpico for this wonderful program!

• The Melrose Park Senior Exercise Club

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

I am writing to express the extreme gratitude for you and the village of Melrose Park for the wonderful assistance with trimming and removing trees and branches at our mental health center located at 1414 Main St.

We have been serving the Melrose Park community at this location for more than 55 years and greatly appreciate your support.

As a nonprofit provider of community mental health and addictions services, we rely greatly on financial support from state and local resources to support projects like this and your generosity enables us to proceed with our next project, which will be complete replacement of the aging parking lot.

Once completed, the new lot along with landscaping improvements will give the center a much needed refreshed appearance.

Thank you again for your support!

- Rick Germann, Vice President, Behavioral Health Ascension Illinois

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

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.

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



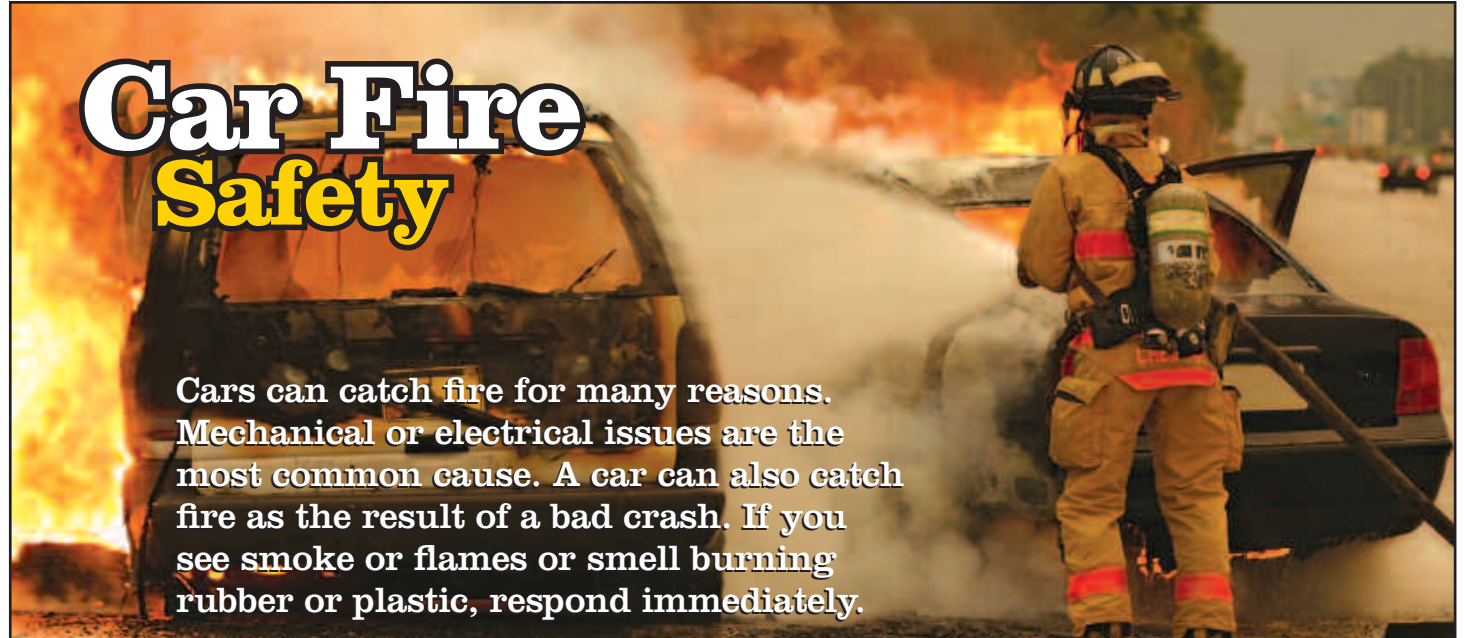
Melrose Park Fire Department NEWS



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 car fire safety tips on behalf of the National Fire Protection Association. Please follow these tips to ensure your family's well-being!



Cars can catch fire for many reasons. Mechanical or electrical issues are the most common cause. A car can also catch fire as the result of a bad crash. If you see smoke or flames or smell burning rubber or plastic, respond immediately.

What to do if your car is on fire

- Pull over as quickly as it is safe to do so, be sure to use your signal as you make your way to a safe location off the road such as the breakdown lane or rest stop.
- Once you have stopped, TURN OFF the engine.
- GET everyone out of the car. Never return to a burning car for anything.
- MOVE everyone at least 100 feet from the burning car and well away from traffic.
- CALL 9-1-1.

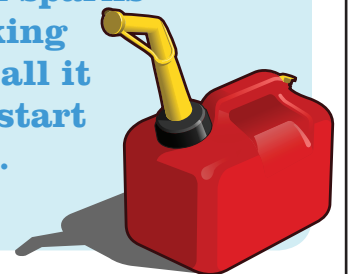
How to prevent a car fire

- Have your car serviced regularly by a professionally trained mechanic. If you spot leaks, your car is not running properly, get it checked. A well-maintained car is less likely to have a fire.
- If you must transport gasoline, transport only a small amount in a certified gas can that is sealed. Keep a window open for ventilation.
- Gas cans and propane cylinders should never be transported in the passenger compartment.
- Never park a car where flammables, such as grass, are touching the catalytic converter.
- Drive safely to avoid an accident.

Know the danger signs

- Cracked or loose wiring or electrical problems, including a fuse that blows more than once
- Oil or fluid leaks
- Oil cap not on securely
- Rapid changes in fuel or fluid level, or engine temperature

Most car fluids are flammable. Heat and electrical sparks plus leaking fluid are all it takes to start a car fire.



FACT

Most crashes do NOT result in fire. In the event of any crash, call 9-1-1. If there is no sign of fire, wait for emergency assistance to help any injured individuals out of the car.



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

A Message from Chief of Police Anthony Greco



Anthony Greco
Chief of Police



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

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

The website can be translated to Spanish and Polish.

Melrose Park Police Department

Certain Types of Fireworks are Legal in the State of Illinois ... If You Plan on Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary with Fireworks this Fourth of July, Please Follow These Safety Tips on Behalf of the Melrose Park Police Department.

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

keep your family safe...



Chief Anthony Greco

Parents, the best protection for your family is not to use any fireworks at home. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals. Should you still decide to set off fireworks at home, here are a few basic safety tips to follow...

- Obey local laws! If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- Only use fireworks outside and have a water hose ready in case of emergency.
- Only use fireworks as intended, don't try to alter or combine them.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."
- Never have any portion of your body directly over fireworks when lighting the fuse and make sure to move back to a safe distance immediately after lighting.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should always wear safety glasses.
- Only adults or supervised children over 12 should handle sparklers of any type. Make sure to keep them outside and away from the face, clothing, and hair. Sparklers can reach temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Don't allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- Don't carry fireworks in your pocket; the friction could set them off.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- If any injury should occur seek immediate professional medical attention.

Visit <https://mppd-il.org/>.



SEARCH

for sex offenders in your area



REGISTER

for automatic email alerts



FIND

safety tips for children & parents

Melrose Park IL Police Department

... where you make the difference



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



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

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

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

Melrose Park is Looking for Residents Currently Serving in the Military

Attention Residents

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



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

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



Always Stepping Up ...

Congrats to New MP Police Department Sergeants!



Pictured (left to right) at the promotion ceremony are Deputy Chief Michael Scudiero, Sgt. Juan Guzman, Sgt. Leonard Bartemio, Police Chief Anthony Greco, Sgt. Sam Pitassi Jr., Sgt. Paul Rossi and Deputy Chief Alfonso Rodriguez.

This past December, four Melrose Park police officers were promoted to the position of sergeant.

The Melrose Park Police Department (MPPD) proudly congratulates newly promoted Sgt. Juan (Frankie) Guzman, Sgt. Leonard Bartemio, Sgt. Sam Pitassi Jr. and Sgt. Paul Rossi on this outstanding achievement. This promotion is a true reflection of their dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment to serving and protecting our community.

MPPD is proud of each of you and looks forward to seeing your continued leadership and success in your new roles. Thank you for your service.

Sgt. Guzman, Sgt. Bartemio, Sgt. Pitassi and Sgt. Rossi – Congratulations on your well-deserved promotions and best wishes for an incredible journey ahead from Mayor Serpico, Police Chief Greco and your colleagues at MPPD.

MP Police Department Reports Successful Memorial Day 'Click It or Ticket' Campaign

The Melrose Park Police Department has announced the results of its Memorial Day 2026 "Click It or Ticket" enforcement campaign aimed at increasing seat belt use and keeping roads safe during one of the busiest travel periods of the year.

"Thanks to the efforts of our officers, more drivers and passengers were reminded to buckle up, helping to prevent injuries and save lives," said Chief Anthony Greco. "Every citation and safety check reinforces the message that seat belts work."

During the campaign, Melrose Park Police Department took the following actions:

- 21 seat belt citations issued.
- One child car seat citation.
- Two DUI arrests.
- One felony arrest.
- One fugitive apprehended.
- Two suspended/revoked license actions.
- Four uninsured motorist citations.
- 21 speeding citations.
- One drug arrest.

The campaign's success reflects law enforcement's commitment to roadway safety and reinforces the message that buckling up saves lives.

The "Click It or Ticket" initiative is funded with federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. For more information on safe driving practices, visit ItsNotaGameIllinois.com.



— THE MELROSE PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT —

E-BIKES & E-SCOOTERS

RIDE SMART. RIDE SAFE.

E-BIKES: 3 CLASSES

CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3
<small>PEDAL-ASSIST ONLY</small>	<small>THROTTLE-ASSIST</small>	<small>PEDAL-ASSIST ONLY</small>
<small>Up to 20 mph</small>	<small>Up to 20 mph</small>	<small>Up to 28 mph</small>
		RIDER MUST BE 16+

⊘

NO DEVICES ON SIDEWALKS

Sidewalks are for pedestrians.

E-SCOOTERS

RIDER MUST BE 18+

NO SIDEWALK RIDING

BANNED: NOT ALLOWED ANYWHERE

E-MOTOS

MINI BIKES

MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES

BANNED ON STREETS, SIDEWALKS, BIKE PATHS & ALL OTHER AREAS

📄

PENALTIES

Penalties can include temporary seizure and fines.

🚗🚲

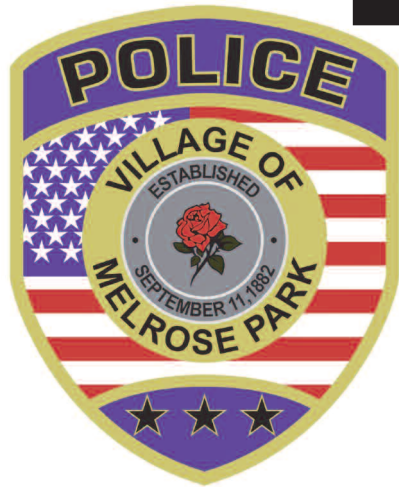
FOLLOW THE RULES

All rules of the road must be followed while riding approved devices in the streets.

RIDE SMART. RIDE SAFE. BE CONSIDERATE.

Know the rules. Protect yourself. Respect others.

FOLLOW THE VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK



Melrose Park Public Safety News

From the Melrose Park Police, Fire and Public Works Departments



Know Your Risk When Severe Weather Occurs

Being prepared means learning about summer weather and water hazards such as hurricanes, heat, lightning, rip currents, air quality, tsunamis and wildfires.

Here's what you need to know:

- Since 2003, more than 40 states within the continental United States have come under a tornado watch; more than 45 states have come under severe thunderstorm watches; and lightning strikes have occurred in every state.
- Heat waves are common across the country during the summer. They are dangerous because the human body cannot cool itself properly when exposed to an extreme combination of heat and humidity.
- In 2015, there were 26 lightning fatalities.
- Flash flooding is the number one killer associated with severe weather.
- Air pollution can make it harder for people with asthma and other respiratory diseases to breathe. Children and teens may be more sensitive than adults to the health effects caused by air pollution. According to the EPA, poor air quality is responsible in the U.S. for an estimated 60,000 premature deaths each year.

Take Action

While the weather may be wild, you are not powerless. This summer, prepare for hazards with these simple steps:

- You may have only minutes to find shelter before a tornado strikes. Practice a family tornado drill at least once a year.
- Protect yourself from extreme heat by rescheduling outdoor activities to earlier in the day.
- There is no safe place outside when lightning is in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember, When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors.
- Whether on foot or in a car, if you encounter flood waters, Turn Around Don't Drown!
- Make sure to check the Air Quality Index for your area at <http://airnow.gov>. If the air quality is poor, avoid prolonged or extreme exertion outdoors.

Be a Force of Nature

Your action can inspire others. Be a force of nature and share how you're working to stay safe from weather and water hazards this summer.

- Write a post on Facebook. Share with your friends and family the preparedness steps you're taking to stay safe this summer.
- Tweet that you're prepared with #SummerSafety. Tell us what you're doing to be prepared for summer hazards.
- Create a Family Communication Plan so that your loved ones know how to get in touch during an emergency. And let your friends know that they should create a plan also.
- Look for ways to help your town prepare, such as volunteering. Register for America's PrepareAthon! to learn how to stay safe during disasters.

With these steps, you'll be doing more than just protecting yourself – you'll help NOAA build a Weather-Ready Nation.



**MELROSE
PARK
PUBLIC
WORKS**





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 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.

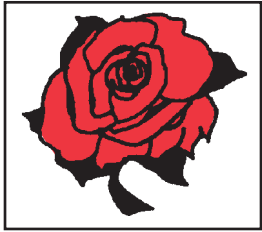
No permit is needed for garage sales, however the following rules must be followed:

- 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.



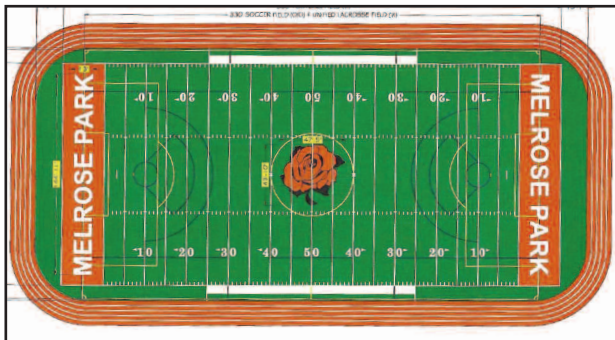


Village of Melrose Park Public Works Report

*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.

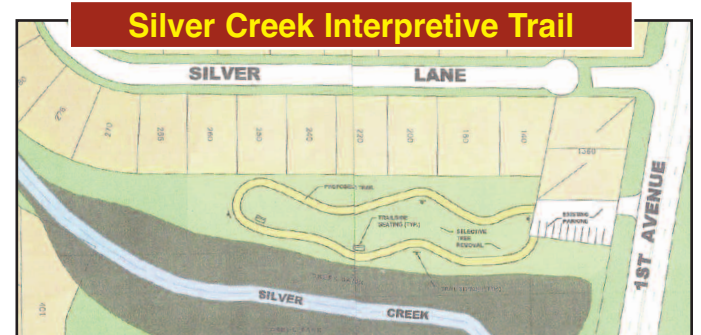
**Phase 5 and 6 of the
Silver Creek Stabilization Project have been completed.
Phase 7 is underway.**

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**

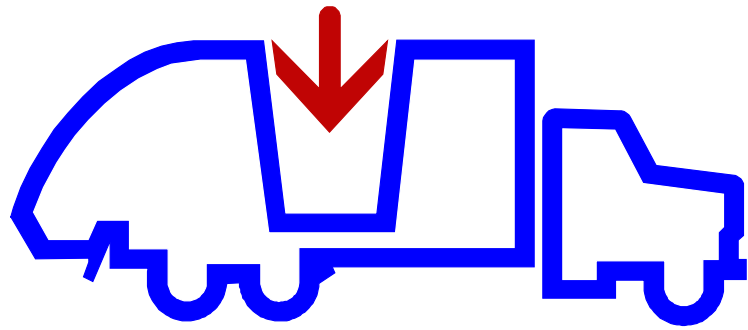
**Village of Melrose Park
are Seeking
Landscaping and
Snow Removal Professionals
to Provide Affordably Priced
Assistance to Our Residents
When Needed ...**



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 Residential Garbage Pickup Information

Republic Services Garbage Schedule for Residential Bi-Weekly Pickup

24th Avenue to 11th Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

Winston Park Area – Tuesday and Friday

West Melrose – Tuesday and Friday

North of North Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

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

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

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

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

The Village of Melrose Park Public Works Department Garbage Pickup Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commercial and apartment buildings must use a private scavenger company.

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

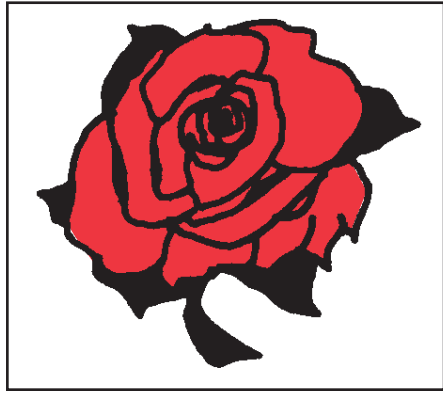
This information is also available at www.melrosepark.org.

ATTENTION RESIDENTS – CALL TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT RESIDENT GARBAGE CANS

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

REPLACEMENT RESIDENT RECYCLING CANS

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



Village of Melrose Park 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

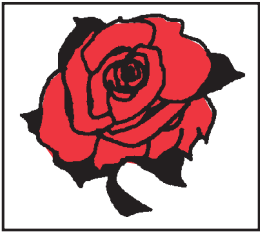
- 1) Only one reservation per rider per day. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- 2) Only two appointments a week can be made for miscellaneous use, such as grocery shopping, etc. Anyone using the van for doctor appointments, etc., may use the service up to three times a week.
- 3) You must stay at the destination you are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

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.

Please note that these luncheons are only for Melrose Park residents who are Senior Club members.

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 _____

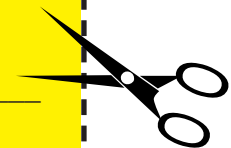
Phone Number/Alternate Number _____

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 _____

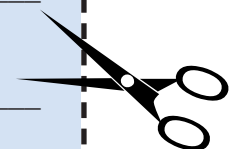
Phone Number/Alternate Number _____

Emergency cases will be transported to Gottlieb Hospital by ambulance.

Medical Conditions _____

Medications _____

Please clip and mail as requested.





Village of Melrose Park

COMMUNITY NOTICE

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/ENSpecialEvent-merged.pdf



OUR SPONSORS

ENTERTAINMENT
DJ/MC Jerry "Jamz" Renda

MELROSE PARK
224-600-0333
CIVIC CENTER

BIG BASH BUFFET
EST 2007
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
WE WON'T STOP!

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20TH

SPLIT THE POT

\$40 DONATION PER PERSON

BEER, WINE & SODA INCLUDED

RAFFLES

TONY OCEAN
NICK PSYHOGIOS
BILL SERITELLA
ELLIOT WIMBUSH
REGINA KARMA
STEFANIE BRINEGAR
JOHN ANTHONY
RONNIE B. ELVIS
THE CHICAGO ALUMNI
HONEYBEARS

The Famous RAINBOW ICE CREAM TRUCK



Sign Up Today

E-NEWSLETTER

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

www.mpplibrary.org

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



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



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



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



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



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

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

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

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



Memorial Day thru Labor Day - Closed on Saturdays

M P Melrose Park
P L Public Library

www.mpplibrary.org

Adult Summer Programs

UNEARTH A STORY™
ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM
JUNE 8TH-JULY 31ST

Turn in the reading log every FRIDAY to enter the into a weekly raffle for a PRIZE!
 At the end of the program, ALL ENTRIES will go into a drawing for GRAND PRIZES!

Sponsor by    

LET'S PLAY SENIORS-EDITION

BINGO!
MONDAY, JUNE 29TH
@ 9:30 -10:30 AM



CHAIR YOGA

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

FRIDAYS
 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
 DATES
July 17 **Aug 14**
Aug 14 **Oct 16**



Begin Your Journey... 

FREE

Shedd AQUARIUM

ILLINOIS RESIDENT FREE HOURS
 2026 Free Nights
 (5 p.m. - 9 p.m.)
June 30th

FREE



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

Computer Help Session
Monday
August 3rd & 17th
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



GENTLE YOGA

SATURDAY
 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
 DATES
September 19th

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



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

M P Melrose Park
P L Public Library

YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAMS

UNLEASH THE EXPLORER IN YOU!



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.

unearth a story
 Melrose Park Public Library
 Summer Reading Program
 June 8 - July 31

Sponsor by: Cane's, Andy's Frozen Custard, CHICAGO DOGS, Cigars, STARS, S, and a Chicago Police logo.

STEM DINO SAUR EGGS
 HOSTED BY: MS. SHAI
 WHEN: JULY 6TH
 TIME: 2:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

STEM Homemade Slime
 HOSTED BY: MS. SHAI
 WHEN: JULY 20TH
 TIME: 2:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
 Register

Ocean Motion Sensory Play
 JULY SENSORY BINS
 Monday, July 20th - Friday, July 24th
 OCEAN GLOW GOO | SHARK BITE SPLASH | BLUE TIDE BLISS
 All WEEK | All Ages

UPCOMING PERFORMERS

JUNE 25	VISIT FROM THE BEEKEEPER* 2 PM	
JULY 2	FAMILY BINGO* 2 PM	
JULY 10	EL MAGO MAGIC SHOW* 2 PM	
JULY 17	SCIENCE HEROES: DIGGING IT* 2 PM	
JULY 24	SCRIBBLE MONSTER* 2 PM	
JULY 31	SCALES & TALES TRAVELING ZOO* 2 PM	

*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

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.



Your Financial Help Makes This All Possible!



Mayor
Ronald M. Serpico



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.

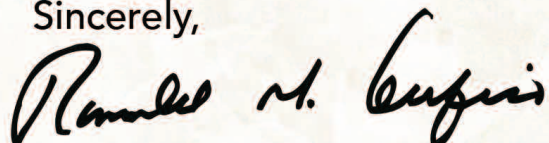
If you have sponsored the Taste of Melrose Park in the past, thank you for your continued support—we hope you will consider renewing your sponsorship for 2026. If you are new to the event, we would be honored to welcome you as a partner in this long-standing community tradition.

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 23.

For additional information or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact **Lorena Anguiano** or **Taste Director Peggy DiFazio** at 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)

★ T-Shirt Sponsorships are No Longer Available! ★

\$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 23.

TASTE OF MELROSE PARK ORDER FORM

See Page 22 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 July 10 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

No Longer Available.

___ \$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 July 10, 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

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



**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 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

6:50-7:05 p.m. – Hollywood Comedian

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

2:15-3:15 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!**



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 – August 2026
(Deadline for material – Aug. 1, 2026.)
Schedule for 2026
August, October and December

Dear Community Member,

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

Included is display ad pricing for your review.

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

The Rose c/o Village of Melrose Park • 1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park, IL 60160
or **Email to: therose@melrosepark.org w/pdf or jpeg file.**

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



Rates – Full Color Ads

- Full Page
\$400 per issue (9 x 10 1/2)
- Half Page
\$200 per issue (9 x 5 1/4)
- 1/4 Page
\$100 per issue (4 1/2 x 5 1/4)
- 1/8 Page
\$50 per issue (4 1/2 x 2 5/8)

Date _____

Name of Business _____

Contact Name _____

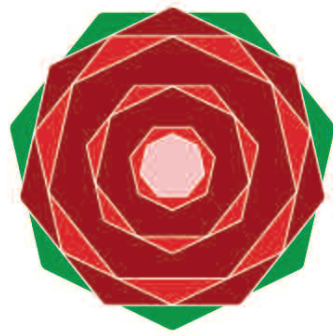
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

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



MELROSE PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

New Chamber Members and Renewals

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) welcomed seven new businesses as members to the chamber in April and May 2026 and has over 225 current members. Please help us welcome and thank Chicago Soccer, Inc.; First Fence Co.; Huntington Bank; Lawrence's Fish and Shrimp; Procedes LLC; River Elm Properties; and The UPS Store – Melrose Park; on their membership and partnership with the MPCCCD.

We also want to give special thanks to the seven businesses that renewed memberships during this period and continue to participate in networking events, information sessions, and provide feedback and surveys to help the chamber connect them with the resources and solutions needed to support and fuel economic growth in our community. Please join us in thanking and supporting these local businesses, they are 5 Star Sports, Inc.; Barton Staffing; Concare, Inc.; Lake Book Manufacturing, Inc.; Macid Inc.; Republic Services; and Universal Metro Asian Services.

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development now has over 225 members and the list continues to grow each month. If you are not currently a member of the MPCCCD, please reach out to Isaac Bazbaz, executive director, via email at lbazbaz@mpccd.org or call (708) 343-9500, and he will schedule a time to meet with you to discuss the benefits of partnering and working with our chamber.

Connecting Businesses to Businesses and Other Resources! Chamber Hosts Record-Breaking Annual Legislative Breakfast

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development proudly hosted its annual Legislative Breakfast on Friday, April 24, 2026, featuring distinguished panelists Illinois Senate President Don Harmon and Speaker of the House Emanuel "Chris" Welch. The event brought together a remarkable assembly of elected officials from various levels of government, including state, municipalities, county, school boards, townships and park districts to discuss critical legislative issues affecting local businesses and community organizations.

With over 250 registrants and representation from over 100 different businesses and organizations, this year's Legislative Breakfast marked the largest attendance in the chamber's history. Attendees engaged in vibrant discussions and extensive networking, creating a dynamic forum for collaboration and growth.

The Legislative Breakfast provided a vital platform for local leaders to engage with state officials, share insights and learn about initiatives that will impact this growing community. The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development looks forward to continuing to foster these essential connections, drive positive change and fuel economic growth in our community.



When businesses and organizations connect, Melrose Park grows!



Mexcal Hosts Chamber After Hours Networking Event

On June 16, 2026, the MPCCCD held its quarterly Chamber After Hours networking event which was hosted by Mexcal restaurant and 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!

MELROSE PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The chamber would also like to thank Mayor Ronald Serpico and representatives from The village of Melrose Park for their constant support of local businesses and for their regular attendance and participation on MPCCCD events to connect with local business owners and leaders!

We would also like to thank the team at Mexcal for hosting an outstanding evening that included great food, drinks and conversation. Mexcal is located at 1105 W. Lake St., Melrose Park.



Melrose Park Welcomes Five New Businesses

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development joined Mayor Ron Serpico in welcoming five more new businesses to Melrose Park with ribbon-cutting and grand opening celebrations in April and May!

On April 18, Executive Director Isaac Bazbaz and the MPCCCD team celebrated the grand opening of Keyla Kiddie Kollage at 808 N. Broadway, Melrose Park. In addition to the ribbon cutting, families were able to join in a day filled with fun for kids as they enjoyed face painting, a petting zoo, pony rides and much more!

On May 1, Mayor Ron Serpico and the Melrose Park Chamber team participated in the grand opening and ribbon cutting celebration at Mexcal located at 1105 W. Lake St., Melrose Park. Mexcal brings a new upscale dining experience to the community and offers customers the opportunity to dine indoors or on their beautiful new patio.

On May 14, Mayor Serpico and the MPCCCD team joined hundreds of new customers to celebrate the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Dutch Bros Coffee located at 1931 N. Mannheim Rd. Dutch Bros is one of the fastest-growing premium coffee businesses and now has over 1200 locations, but only seven currently in Illinois, as they continue to move to new states. We want to thank the Dutch Bros team for selecting Melrose Park as its first location in the Chicagoland area.

On June 5, Mayor Ron Serpico joined Isaac Bazbaz and the MPCCCD team to celebrate the grand opening of The UPS Store at 1401 W. North Ave., Melrose Park. The UPS Store brings the service and brand that everyone knows, but is locally owned and operated which is a perfect blend of a national brand and a small local business. Congratulations to the team at the Melrose Park UPS Store and thanks for choosing Melrose Park.

On June 12, the MPCCCD team joined Mayor Serpico at 1414 N. 37th Ave., for the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Hope Learning Academy. Hope Academy is a private therapeutic day school that offers a specialized learning environment where every child has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential and receive support tailored to their unique needs. Thank you to the team at Hope Learning Academy for choosing Melrose Park for your third location and your first in the Chicago area. Welcome to Melrose Park.



Keyla Kiddie Kollage



Mexcal



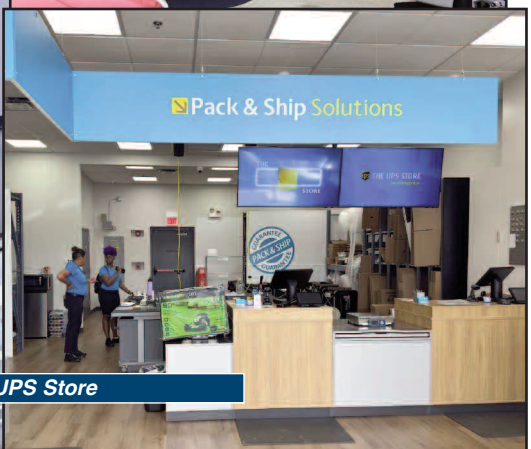
Dutch Bros



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



The UPS Store



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

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

The Value of the Roth Retirement Account

By Mike Corrigan

The Roth Retirement Account – whether a Roth IRA or an employer-sponsored Roth account, such as a Roth 401(k) – can provide powerful long-term tax advantages when used strategically. While Roth accounts have become increasingly accessible, there are important rules, income limitations and planning considerations investors should understand before deciding whether a Roth is right for them.

Key Benefits of a Roth Retirement Account

Tax-Free Growth – Investments inside a Roth account grow tax-free, allowing earnings to compound over time without the drag of annual taxation.

Tax-Free Retirement Income – Qualified withdrawals in retirement are entirely tax-free, which can help reduce your overall tax burden during retirement years.

No Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) – Unlike traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs are not subject to required minimum distributions during the original owner's lifetime. This provides greater flexibility in managing retirement income and preserving assets for future generations.

Access to Contributions – Contributions to a Roth IRA can generally be withdrawn at any time without taxes or penalties, offering an added level of financial flexibility if unexpected needs arise.

Potential Tax-Bracket Advantage – A Roth account may be especially beneficial for individuals who expect to be in a higher tax bracket later in life or who believe tax rates may rise in the future.

Estate Planning Opportunities – Roth accounts can be valuable legacy-planning tools because beneficiaries may inherit assets with significant tax advantages compared to traditional retirement accounts.

Potential Drawbacks to Consider

Income Limits – Direct Roth IRA contributions are subject to income restrictions, which may limit eligibility for higher-income earners.

No Immediate Tax Deduction – Unlike traditional IRA contributions, Roth contributions are made with after-tax dollars, so investors do not receive an upfront tax deduction.

The Five-Year Rule – To withdraw investment earnings tax-free, the Roth account generally must be open for at least five years and the account owner must be age 59 1/2 or older. This rule can affect short-term flexibility and withdrawal planning.

Important Planning Questions

When deciding whether a Roth strategy makes sense, investors should consider several key questions:

- Will your future tax bracket be higher or lower than it is today?
- Could a Roth conversion strategy help reduce future taxes?
- How does a Roth fit into your broader retirement income plan?
- What are the inheritance implications for beneficiaries?
- How might future tax law changes affect retirement savings strategies?

Final Thoughts

Roth retirement accounts can play an important role in a well-designed retirement strategy because of their unique tax advantages and flexibility. However, the right approach depends on your income, retirement timeline, estate planning goals and overall financial situation.

For individuals near retirement, careful tax planning becomes especially important when determining how and when to utilize Roth accounts effectively. If you would like to discuss whether a Roth strategy may be appropriate for your situation, contact Mike Corrigan at (708) 215-5100 or mike@corriganfs.com.

STRONG COMMUNITY. STRONG SUPPORT.

As Melrose Park celebrates this summer, **Aging Care Connections** is here for older adults and caregivers.

- 🚩 Adult Protective Services
- 👤 Caregiver support
- 📄 Information & Assistance
- 🏃 Fitness, education & social opportunities

Make this a summer to remember!

Call or visit us to learn more

📍 111 W. Harris Ave., La Grange, IL 60525

📞 708-354-1323

🌐 AgingCareConnections.org



aging care
connections

Because Aging Well Matters

Precision 7 Golf Brings High-Tech Indoor Golf Lounge and Entertainment to Melrose Park

Precision 7 Golf, a family-owned indoor golf and entertainment facility with more than 30 years of roots in the Melrose Park community, is now open and offering a unique blend of golf training, recreation and social entertainment.

The facility features state-of-the-art golf simulators and the Precision Swing Cam video playback system, providing instant swing analysis, virtual course play, and professional coaching opportunities for youth and advanced golfers alike.

In addition to golf instruction and simulator play, Precision 7 Golf offers club regripping, repairs and custom paint services. The facility also includes the La Plaza Lounge, a welcoming social space featuring karaoke, music, games and a family-friendly atmosphere where guests are encouraged to enjoy food from local restaurants.

“Precision 7 Golf was created to be more than just a golf facility – it’s a place where community, family and entertainment come together,” said the ownership team.

Precision 7 Golf officially opened in November and continues to welcome golfers, families and community members from throughout the area.

Precision 7 Golf Lounge is located at 1930 George St., Melrose Park, and is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

For more information, contact Precision 7 Golf at (708) 238-1239, email Chigolf6@gmail.com or visit their website at www.playp7golf.com.



Veterans Park District

Programs & Happenings

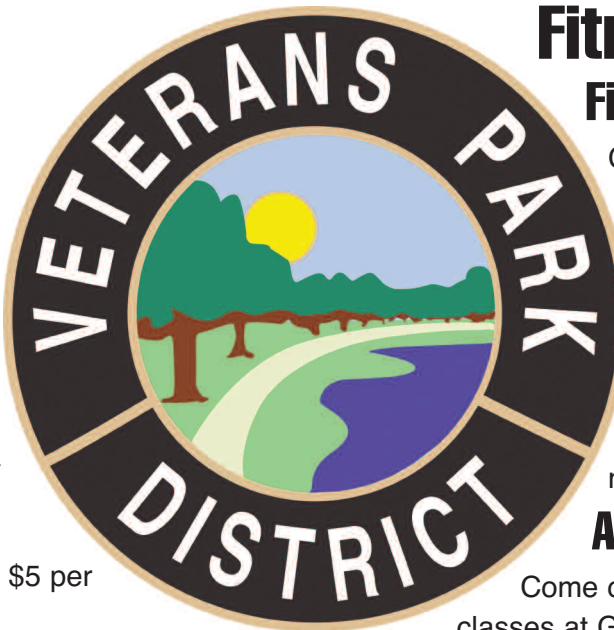
Early Childhood

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, 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.



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.

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) and run through Aug. 8, with Aqua-Zumba kicking off at 10 a.m., and Aquacize immediately following at 11a.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.

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

New! Co-op Basketball League Partnership

We're excited to announce a brand-new partnership with the Leyden Township Basketball Co-Op, launching next winter.

This collaborative league brings together the Leyden Recreation Department, Park District of Franklin Park, Schiller Park Recreation Department, Rosemont Park District and Norridge Park District to create a fun, community-focused basketball experience.

Teams from each community will play weekly games at rotating locations, giving families the chance to visit and enjoy different facilities throughout the season.

Practices will be held once per week and the league places a strong emphasis on equal playing time to ensure a positive, balanced and development-focused experience for every participant.

For more information call Nico Urbinati at (708) 716-4822, Ext. 234.

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 was Fun ... Register Now for Session 2! It Begins July 6!

Session 2: July 6-30

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

Bulger Park
1601 Hirsch Street,
Melrose Park

(708) 343-5270 Follow Us On
 VDPARK.ORG

For more information on Veterans Park District events and activities, call (708) 343-5270 or visit www.vpdpark.org.

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

A graphic for Veterans Park District social media and contact information. It features a central laptop displaying the Veterans Park District logo. Surrounding the laptop are various social media icons and handles: Pinterest (@vpdpark), Instagram (@vpdpark), Twitter (@VPDpark), and Facebook (@vpdparks). There are also icons for a mobile app, a phone number (708) 343.5270, and an email address (vpdsocial@vpdpark.org). The text "Visit us online at: vpdpark.org" is at the bottom.



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

SUMMER PICKLEBALL



PICKLEBALL – ADULT LESSONS

All lessons will be taught by Mel Phillips, RSPA Certified Pro at Bataan Park Pickleball Courts, 1220 N 9th Ave., Melrose Park.

FREE 15-minute evaluation to determine your level and appropriate class. For appointment text Coach Mel at (708) 692-8852. BEGINNER

For students with little to no experience or limited mobility. Emphasis on injury prevention and developing a consistent dink, drive, volley, serve and return. Introduction to scoring and point play.

Age	Date	Day	Time	R/N Fee	Code #
17+	Jun 2-30	Tu	6:15-7:15 PM	\$70/95	555300-A15
17+	Jul 14-Aug 11	Tu	6:15-7:15 PM	\$70/95	555300-A16

Min/Max: 4/8

ADVANCED BEGINNER

For students with little to moderate experience. Emphasis on injury prevention and incorporating the right combination of power and touch. Developing a more consistent serve, return, overhead and improved "kitchen" play. Point play with strategy.

Age	Date	Day	Time	R/N Fee	Code #
17+	Jun 4-Jul 2	Th	5-6 PM	\$70/95	555300-B18
17+	Jul 16-Aug 13	Th	5-6 PM	\$70/95	555300-B19

Min/Max: 4/8

Age	Date	Day	Time	R/N Fee	Code #
55+	Jun 2-Jun 30	Tu	3:30-4:30 PM	\$60/90	555300-SR12
55+	Jul 14-Aug 11	Tu	3:30-4:30 PM	\$60/90	555300-SR13

Min/Max: 4/8

INTERMEDIATE PICKLEBALL

For qualified experienced players that already have placement and control on a consistent level. Emphasis on more advanced techniques/strategies including slice, spins, 3rd shot drop, stacking and "kitchen firefights". Point play with standard and rally scoring.

Age	Date	Day	Time	R/N Fee	Code #
17+	Jun 4-Jul 2	Th	6-7 PM	\$70/95	555300-C4
17+	Jul 16-Aug 13	Th	6-7 PM	\$70/95	555300-C5

Min/Max: 4/8

Call 708-343-5151
for more
information



PICKLEBALL – YOUTH LESSONS

Learn the basics of one of America's fastest growing sports! Pickleball combines the many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Simple rules make it easy for beginners to pick up the game fast and get in on the fun. Our instructor will teach participants everything they need to know about the basic rules, procedures and equipment involved with this enjoyable sport.

Age	Date	Day	Time	R/N Fee	Code #
11-16	Jun 2-30	Tu	4:45-5:45 PM	\$60/80	555300-Y10
11-16	Jul 14-Aug 11	Tu	4:45-5:45 PM	\$60/80	555300-Y11

Min/Max: 4/8

NEW EXPANDED OPEN PLAY OPTIONS – ADULT (16+)

Instructor supervised adult doubles open play – advanced beginner and intermediate levels only. Weather dependent No make-ups until October. (Must register in advance. Each option is a separate fee.)

Age	Date	Day	Time	R/N Fee	Code #
16+	Jun 2-23	Tu	7:15-8:45 PM	\$32/48	555333-June1
16+	Jun 3-24	W	7:15-8:45 PM	\$32/48	555333-June2
16+	Jun 4-25	Th	7:15-8:45 PM	\$32/48	555333-June3

Age	Date	Day	Time	R/N Fee	Code #
16+	Jul 7-28	Tu	7:15-8:45 PM	\$32/48	555333-July1
16+	Jul 8-29	W	7:15-8:45 PM	\$32/48	555333-July2
16+	Jul 9-30	Th	7:15-8:45 PM	\$32/48	555333-July3

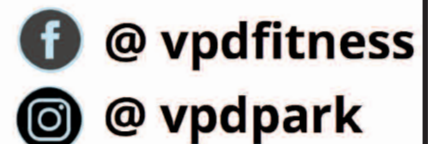
Age	Date	Day	Time	R/N Fee	Code #
16+	Aug 4-25	Tu	7:15-8:45 PM	\$32/48	555333-Aug1
16+	Aug 5-26	W	7:15-8:45 PM	\$32/48	555333-Aug2
16+	Aug 6-27	Th	7:15-8:45 PM	\$32/48	555333-Aug3

Instructor: Mel Phillips – RSPA Certified Pro

Location: Bataan Park
Min/Max: 8/12



Follow us at:



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





Veterans Park District

Programs
&
Happenings



FREE MOVIES IN THE PARK

Relax under the stars and enjoy our **FREE MOVIES IN THE PARK.**

Please bring your own lawn chairs or blankets. You are also welcome to bring your own snacks. Remember, that alcohol and dogs are not allowed on park properties.

Movies start after sundown.

Call (708) 343-5270 or check the VPD Facebook page for rain out details.

FREE FRESH POPCORN
(while supplies last)





Become
a program/event
SPONSOR





Thanks so much to those who attended these two features in June! We hope you enjoyed the movie!



Harold & The Purple Crayon
Grant Park
July 8
PG 92 min



Gabby's Dollhouse
Bataan Park
July 15
G 85 min



Lion King
Trumbull Park
August 5
PG 87 min



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





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



VPD Annual Softball Tournament

Thursday, July 30 - Sunday, August 2

Veterans Park District hosts its Annual Softball
Tournament at Bulger Park, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park.

Team spots fill up fast for this yearly event so register your team now!
We are looking for:

**8 Men's 16" Major teams
'Open Roster'**

**12 Men's 16"
A/B Division teams**

**12 Coed 14"
Mushball teams**

Don't miss this action-packed weekend of softball,
food and drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic).



- A deposit is required to hold your spot or you can pay the fee in full.
- Registration will be taken throughout the spring and early summer.
- Monetary prizes and trophies will be awarded to all winning teams of each tournament.

Game times to be announced.
Non Refundable Deposit: \$100 (applied towards balance)
Fee: \$200
Check quickscores.com/vpd for league updates.
For more information or to register a team, contact
Joe Serpico at (708) 870-4780.

Interested in marketing your business to hundreds
of residents, participants and local businesses?
Become a VPD Softball, Bocce Ball Tournament
sponsor! Call Greg Stanczyk at (708) 343-5270 or
email: gregstanczyk@vpdpark.org

BOCCE BALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, August 1 -
Sunday, August 2

Join Veterans Park District as we celebrate the
tradition of Bocce Ball, a game that can be enjoyed
by all ages. Sign up your team for the 2026
Tournament now! Call Nico at (708) 716-4822.
There must be two players on a team. Court times
will be assigned the day of the tournament.
Preregistration required:
\$20 per team.



WEEKEND LINE UP:

Thursday & Saturday	A/B games
Saturday	Major Games
Friday & Sunday	Coed Games
Saturday & Sunday	Bocce Tournament



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





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



FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT EVENTS!

Escape the midweek hustle and join us for an unforgettable night of live music! Band starts at 7 PM. Our patio bar will open at 6 PM serving cold beer and wine.



CHICAGO SKYLINERS BIG BAND

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 • 7-9 PM

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park
1800 Riverwoods Dr., Melrose Park
(in the back of the complex by the forest)

Featuring contemporary arrangements of classic standards and the incredible vocals of Leslie Beukelman, this dynamic performance brings timeless big band sound to life.



TRABUCO SALSA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19 • 7-9:30 PM

Bulger Park Community Center
1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park

Feel the heat with TRABUCO Salsa Band – Chicagoland's hottest, high-energy salsa band! Live music, vibrant rhythms, and nonstop Latin flair that will have you dancing.



*Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, snacks or pack a picnic. Dogs are **not** allowed on park properties. All VPD Special Event dates, locations and advertised activities are subject to change. Please visit vpdpark.org or our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/vpdparks](https://www.facebook.com/vpdparks) for updates.*

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





**Discover strengths you
never knew you had!**



Triton College



triton.edu/fall



Triton College NEWS

triton.edu • (708) 456-0300

Mark Your Calendars for These Exciting Triton College Events

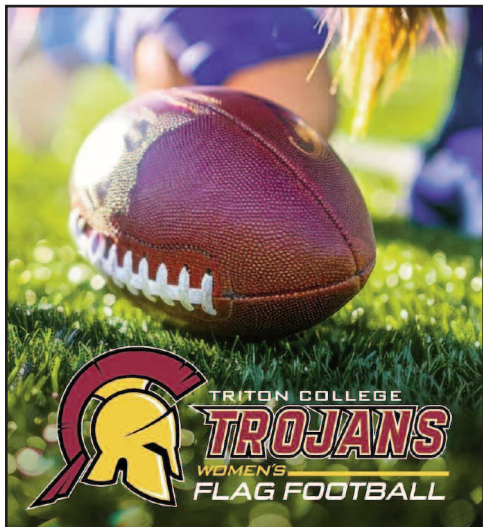
Our Farm Stand is Open for Business Good Food Grows Here!



The Triton College Farm Stand is open for business every Thursday through Oct. 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., between the A and B buildings, rain or shine. 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.

Be a Trojan Athlete: Join Flag Football Triton Students – Don't Miss this Opportunity!



Ready, set, hike! Join Triton's women's flag football team – it's a great opportunity for women student-athletes interested in competing at the collegiate level while continuing their academic journey.

Why join?

- Compete in one of the fastest-growing collegiate sports.
- Represent Triton College as a student-athlete.
- Develop leadership, teamwork and athletic skill.

Triton's Athletics is currently recruiting student-athletes for the upcoming 2026-2027 season. Interested stu-

dents should contact Coach Smith (samuelsmith3@triton.edu) or Coach Anderson (ciaraanderson@triton.edu). Don't miss your chance to become a part of Triton College history and help establish our newest athletic tradition!

Cernan Earth and Space Center Presents *Laser Chappell Roan*

Welcome to the Pink Pony Club! Cue the sequins and chaos at the Triton College Cernan Earth and Space Center's *Laser Chappell Roan* cosmic light show on Saturday, June 27, 8:30 p.m.

This 45-minute, family-friendly show combines dazzling laser light, thousands of stars and stunning digital effects – all set to the music of Chappell Roan.

Laser Chappell Roan is the first original laser show produced by the Cernan Earth and Space Center since the mid-1990s!

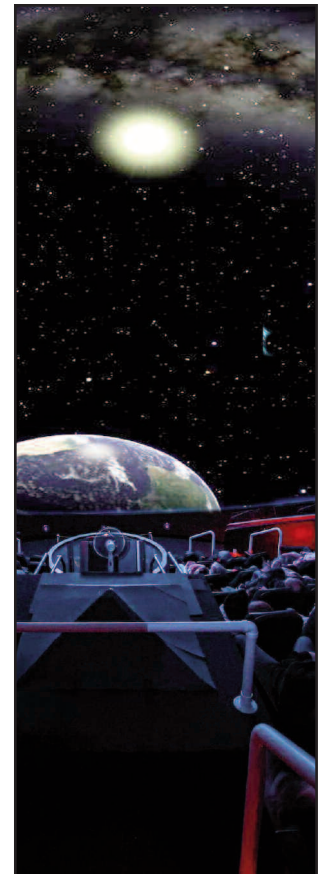
Please note that this cosmic light show may contain language and themes that may not be suitable for all viewers. Laser shows contain loud music and bright, flashing lights that could cause discomfort to those with a light sensitivity or other health conditions or concerns. Please use discretion in your program selection.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors (55 and over) and \$5 for children (2-17). Note: Tickets can only be purchased in the Cernan Center's Star Store the day of the show starting at 6:30 p.m. There are no advance or online ticket sales. This show is popular and seats are limited. Triton students, faculty and staff are admitted free with a valid ID.

Cernan Center hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturday, 6:30-9:30 p.m. The Cernan Center is closed on Sundays.

Follow the Cernan Earth and Space Center on Facebook.

For more information, please contact cernan@triton.edu.



New Student Orientation

It's Time to Kick-Start Your Triton Journey

Kick-start your Triton journey by attending our New Student Orientation in the Student Center Cafeteria (B Building). Explore Triton's campus, connect with classmates, finalize your class schedule and receive your Triton ID.

The sessions will be held Thursday, July 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Wednesday, July 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fall classes begin Aug. 24. To register, visit triton.edu/nso.

For more information, email orientation@triton.edu.

Fall Registration Rally Set for July 13

Ensure a stress-free summer by securing your registration for the fall

semester. Interested students are invited to participate in a registration rally on Monday, July 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., in the Welcome Center (B Building).

Explore Triton further with a campus tour at 10 a.m., followed by opportunities to speak with department representatives, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

New students are welcome to meet with Admissions representatives, academic advisors and Financial Aid representatives to complete the enrollment steps for fall 2026. Additional student service departments will also be available to assist.

Registration is not required. Walk-ins are welcome.

For more information, visit triton.edu/fall.





Fossils & Extinction

Emerson School's Miss Murphy's third grade class explored the fascinating world of plant and animal extinction through hands-on learning activities. Students stepped into the role of paleontologists as they carefully excavated their own fossils and examined their discoveries. Through this engaging investigation, they learned how fossils provide important clues about extinct organisms and life on Earth long ago.

Dreaming Big at Garfield

Garfield students planted seeds for the future during an exciting Career Day experience. Students explored a variety of professions and shared dreams of becoming veterinarians, principals, art teachers, paramedics, lawyers, football players and psychologists. As Principal Saffold shared, "It's never too early to introduce careers to our giants!" The event inspired students to dream big and begin exploring the many possibilities for their futures.



Litterbug Museum Fun



Jane Addams kindergarteners showed off their creativity during their exciting Litterbug Museum project! Using recycled and everyday materials, students designed unique and imaginative litterbugs full of personality and creativity. From bottle caps to paper and wrappers, these young artists transformed ordinary items into amazing works of art. We are so proud of their hard work, creativity and enthusiasm throughout this fun project.

Creativity and Expression at Lincoln Art Club



Lincoln's Art Club students spent the year developing their artistic skills through creative exploration and self-expression. Throughout the program, students engaged in a variety of art activities that encouraged imagination, critical thinking and creativity, while strengthening their confidence and appreciation for the arts. We are proud of the effort, talent and enthusiasm that students demonstrated each week, and we are grateful to everyone who helped make Art Club a meaningful and inspiring experience.

Surgery Day at Washington Dual Language Academy

Washington Dual Language Academy's fifth grade students participated in an engaging Surgery Day classroom transformation led by Mrs. Garcia. Students stepped into the role of surgeons as they worked collaboratively to save their famous patients by solving challenging order-of-operations problems. This hands-on learning experience combined creativity, teamwork and critical thinking, while strengthening students' math skills in an exciting and meaningful way. Great job, Wildcats!





Bookmark Design Contest at Irving

Irving Middle School students showcased their creativity and love of reading during the school's Bookmark Design Contest, centered around the theme "Summer Reading." Students created original, hand-drawn bookmark designs that combined both words and images to reflect the theme. STRIDE students participated in an internal classroom contest, dedicating class time to designing their bookmarks before selecting entries for the schoolwide competition. Congratulations to grade-level winners Stephanie Mendoza-Dominguez (sixth grade), Arianna Hall (seventh grade) and Larielle Thurmond-Tennort (eighth grade/STRIDE), as well as overall winner Ashleigh Williams, whose design earned top honors.

Library Week at Roosevelt School

Roosevelt School kindergarten students celebrated Library Week with a special visit from librarian, Ms. Nicole Badger. Students enjoyed listening to *The Day the Crayons Quit* and *Crayons on Strike* by Jennifer Jones, while engaging in creative response activities. As they listened to the stories, students illustrated what they imagined, bringing the books to life through their own artwork. The experience encouraged listening comprehension, creativity and imagination, in a fun and meaningful way.



Butterfly Life Cycle Learning at Melrose Park

Melrose Park School K-2 students participated in a hands-on learning experience focused on the butterfly life cycle. Students observed each stage of development, including caterpillars, chrysalis and butterflies, while strengthening their understanding of science concepts. Through observation, reading, writing and presentations, the activity also supported the development of reading comprehension and writing skills in an engaging and meaningful way.

Celebrating ESL Achievement at Stevenson

The Stevenson ESL Team celebrated students who exited the 2026 ACCESS Exam and those who demonstrated significant growth on the assessment. This year's celebration was the largest yet, recognizing the hard work and dedication students showed on the rigorous four-part English Proficiency Exam, which measures listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. Ms. Gueli, Ms. Cohen, Ms. Floretta and Mrs. Vidales shared their pride in their students' outstanding accomplishments and progress.



District 89 Summer Athletic Camps

District 89 is preparing for another exciting summer of athletics with registration now open for Summer Athletic Camps for students entering fourth through eighth grade. Camps include basketball, volleyball, soccer, bowling, wrestling, cheering, tumbling, girls' flag football and more. Camps run July 7-30 at various District 89 locations. Families can scan the QR code at right for registration and eligibility information.





**Congrats to
School
District 89
Graduates,
Class
of
2026!**



DISTRICT 89

MAYWOOD | MELROSE PARK | BROADVIEW

A Message from Fr. Leandro Fossá , C.S., Pastor Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish and Shrine **Blessed Mother ... The Most Revered**

In 1870, Mrs. Emanuela DeStefano came to the United States. Just as in Italy, where many lived in the city and owned property in the country, Mrs. DeStefano lived in Chicago and purchased farmland in Melrose Park, on 25th and North Avenue to be specific.

In 1894, when her husband Emilio became ill, she prayed to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, the patron saint in her town of Laurenzana, to spare him.

She promised that if he survived, she would establish a Feast to honor la Madonna del Carmine. Her prayers were answered. In gratitude, she collected funds and commissioned Neapolitan artist Rafaele della Campa to create a replica of the famous statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Laurenzana, Provincia Potenza.

The statue and banner "Societa' Maria SS. Del Monte Carmelo di Chicago" named in honor of Mrs. DeStefano and her friends arrived at the DeStefano farm on July 16, 1894, and the first Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was held.

In 1905 Fr. Benjamin Franch, a Scalabrinian priest, arrived from Italy to take charge of the new parish. He was assigned to celebrate Mass, of which his first collection was 75 cents from his congregation of 12. As time passed, he became established as pastor. Fr. Franch organized a group of men to plan and manage the annual procession and carnival, and in 1921 the Feast Committee was created. The committee continues today with many of their descendants carrying out their devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

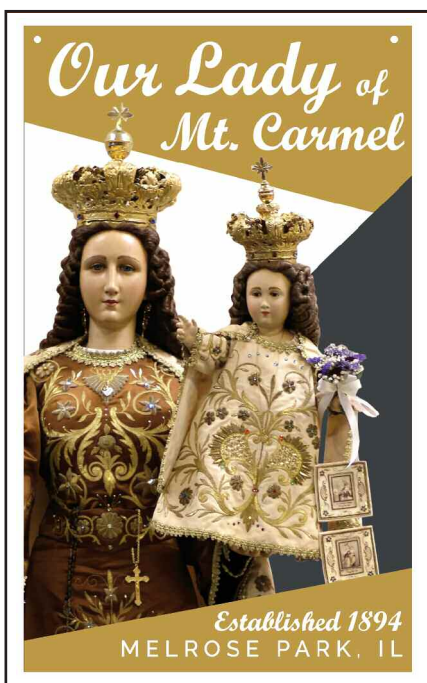
This procession has gone through the streets of Melrose Park since 1921 and this year we have decided to send a group of young adults to visit all the homes of the procession route. The goal of the visit is to inform people who live in town and have their home on the route where the statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel passes on Feast Day to invite them to the Novena that will take place this year from Friday, July 10 to Saturday, July 18, and to participate in the Field Mass and procession on July 19.

Please come out to participate in Novena nights and join the community for refreshments right after under the tent at the Parish Plaza. Additionally, we are inviting you to come out on Feast Day for the Field Mass and procession. If you are at your home (for those who live on the procession route) during the procession and you have any Catholic devotions, we invite you to build a small altar in front of your door and place a saint or a blessed mother of your devotion at the altar. The priest will stop and bless you, your family and your devotions.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel has protected and blessed the city of Melrose Park for over a century. This year on our

133rd anniversary we want the Blessed Virgin Mary to protect your home and your family as well.

• Sincerely,
Fr. Leandro Fossá, cs
Pastor and Rector



Altar and Rosary Society to Host a Marian Consecration on Wednesday, July 15

On Wednesday, July 15, the Altar and Rosary Society is hosting a Marian Consecration at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Shrine. It will take place after the presentation of the roses concludes. If you would like to participate, please bring your own brown scapular with the image of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Brown scapulars will also be available for purchase at the event.

If desired, you may also participate in the 33-day preparation for the Consecration through the free GroupMe app. This preparation process is entirely optional. The QR code to join the GroupMe group is below. The name of the group is "OLMC Marian Consecration 2026." The group will be active from now-July 14 and will follow the Total Consecration to Mary by Saint Louis De Montfort. In the app, the president of the Altar and Rosary Society will post daily prayers, readings and reflections to support your preparation process.

You're invited to the new group 'OLMC Marian Consecration 2026' on GroupMe.
To join, visit https://groupme.com/join_group/114635606/eA1ioZyG.



Join us in celebrating the 133rd anniversary of

The Feast of OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL

2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



JULY 10 - 18

7:30 p.m. Solemn Novena presided by Fr. Joseph Tito.
Refreshments will be served each night after the Novena
Grand Raffle with drawing to be held on July 18, 2026, after Novena

TUESDAY, JULY 14

7 p.m. Banner Presentation

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

6 p.m. Rose Presentation

THURSDAY, JULY 16 - FEAST DAY

6 p.m. Feast Celebration Dinner

7:30 p.m. **Feast Mass presided by Bishop Jose Maria Garcia Maldonado**
and Memorial for the deceased members of Feast Committee
Caliendo's Banda Napoletana marches through the streets

FRIDAY, JULY 17

8 p.m. The Italian Feast Block Party

SATURDAY, JULY 18

3 p.m. Mass in Spanish

5:30 p.m. Mass in English



SUNDAY, JULY 19

Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Caliendo's Banda Napoletana & the Sicilian Band of Chicago will perform during the processions.

7:30 a.m. Mass in English

9:00 a.m. Solemn Mass in Italian

10:30 a.m. Statue leaves Church in Procession to the Field Mass

Noon **Field Mass on Church grounds Presided by Bishop Larry Sullivan, Fr. Joseph Tito, and Fr. Leandro Fossá, CS**

1:30 p.m. Traditional Procession continues through the streets

4:00 p.m. Statue returns to Church, followed by Benediction

5:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

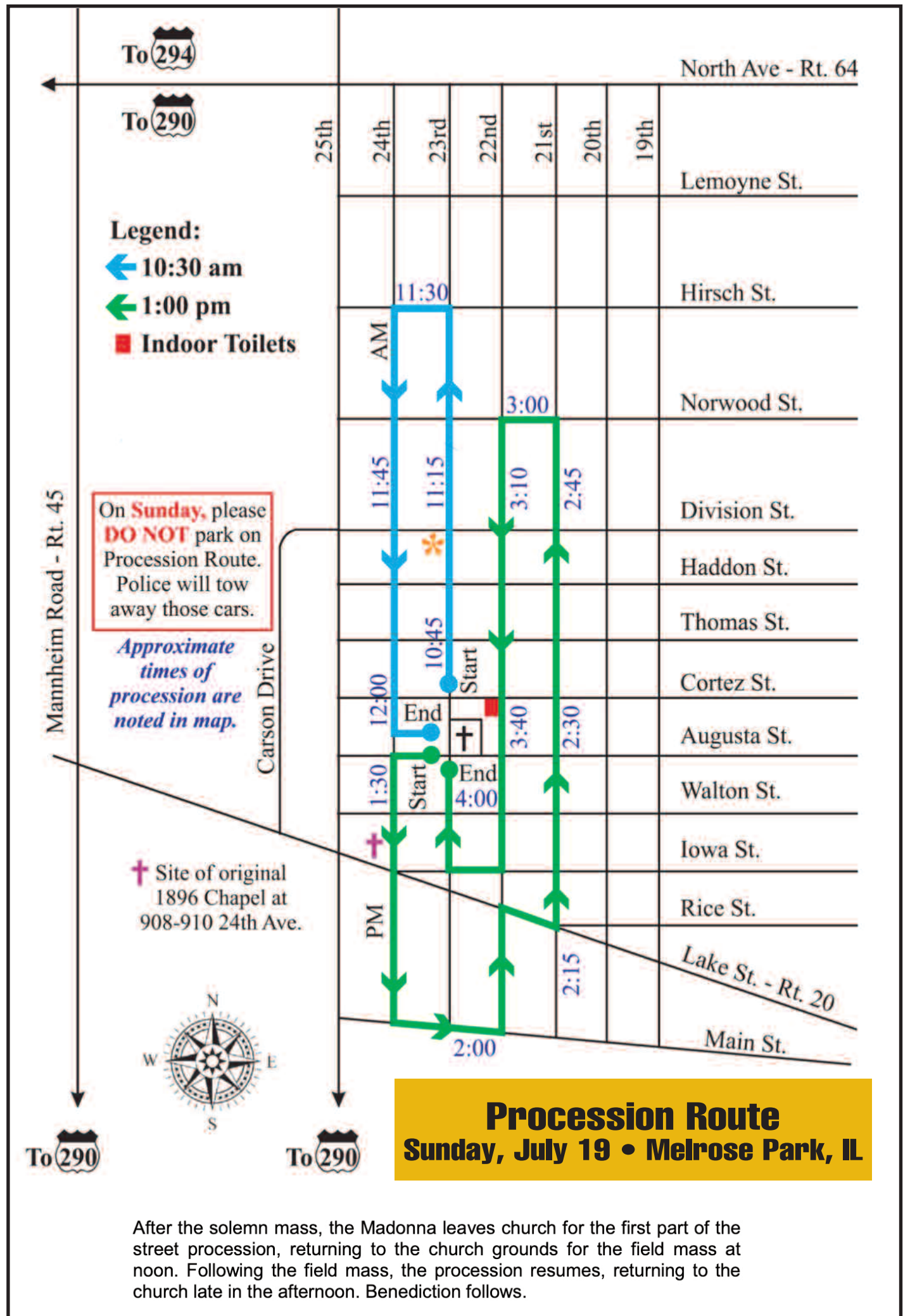
Ad Book will be available for our sponsors & friends!

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church & Shrine • 23rd & Augusta • Melrose Park
www.olmcp parish.org | www.facebook.com/olmcp parish | feast.olmc@gmail.com | 708.344.4140

For more information, visit www.olmcp parish.org or www.facebook.com/olmcp parish.



133rd Anniversary of the Feast of Our Lady Mt. Carmel



For more information, visit www.olmcp parish.org or www.facebook.com/olmcp parish.

133rd Anniversary of the Feast of Our Lady Mt. Carmel Rose Presentation Reservation Form

Dear Devotee of Our Lady of Mount Carmel:

The **133rd Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel** is approaching quickly. The **Altar and Rosary and the Feast Committee** will once again sponsor the **Rose Presentation to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**, which will take place on **Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM**, prior to the Novena.

Baskets of **red roses** are available for **\$65 each** and must be paid for at the time the order is placed.

To ensure that your basket(s) will be presented to the Blessed Mother and that your intentions will be read during the presentation on the evening of **July 15**, please return the order form below to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish/Shrine by Tuesday, **June 30, 2026**. Unfortunately, **no exceptions can be made for orders received after June 30**. Additional order forms will be available at the rectory.

As in previous years, **single roses** will also be available for purchase on the evening of the event:

- \$2.00 each
- \$8.00 for a half dozen
- \$15.00 for a dozen

*Please note that **only baskets may be preordered**. Individual roses, half dozen, and dozens must be purchased at the door.*

Thank you for your continued devotion and support. May the Blessed Mother bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

**The Altar and Rosary
The Feast Committee**

Name _____ Phone _____

Number of Baskets: _____ @ \$65.00 Total: \$ _____

I will be in attendance to receive my basket(s). (*Preorders are for baskets only; all other roses must be purchased at the door.*)

I will **not** be in attendance to receive my basket(s).

Please make checks payable to: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish/Shrine or pay online at:
<https://www.givecentral.org/location/317/event/33585>

If paying online, please email your intentions to: feast.olmc@gmail.com

Prayers / Intentions (to be read during the presentation):



For more information, visit www.olmcparish.org or www.facebook.com/olmcparish.

133st Anniversary of the Feast of Our Lady Mt. Carmel Sponsor/Ad Book/Dinner/Raffle Ticket Reservation Form

Feast Sponsor - \$500

(Includes full page in ad book)

Feast Celebration Dinner Ad Book

Place your congratulatory messages and business ads in our dinner ad book.

The deadline is June 30, 2026.

Full page ad - \$100 Half page ad - \$50

Please email your ad information to: feast.olmc@gmail.com

Feast Celebration Dinner and Grand Raffle

The Feast Celebration Dinner will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 1101 N 23rd Ave, Melrose Park, IL. Donation is \$25 per ticket.

Grand raffle tickets - \$20 for a book of 10 tickets

Please Reserve: _____ Sponsor - \$ _____
_____ Ad Book - \$ _____
_____ Dinner tickets - \$ _____
_____ Raffle tickets - \$ _____
Total enclosed - \$ _____

Please make check payable to OLMC Feast Committee and mail it to the Parish. For online payment, go to - <https://www.givecentral.org/location/317/event/9521>

Business/Name: _____ Contact: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish-Shrine

1101 N 23rd Ave, Melrose Park, IL 60160 Tel. (708) 344-4140

Feast.olmc@gmail.com

www.olmcparish.org

www.facebook.com/olmcparish



For more information, visit www.olmcparish.org or www.facebook.com/olmcparish.

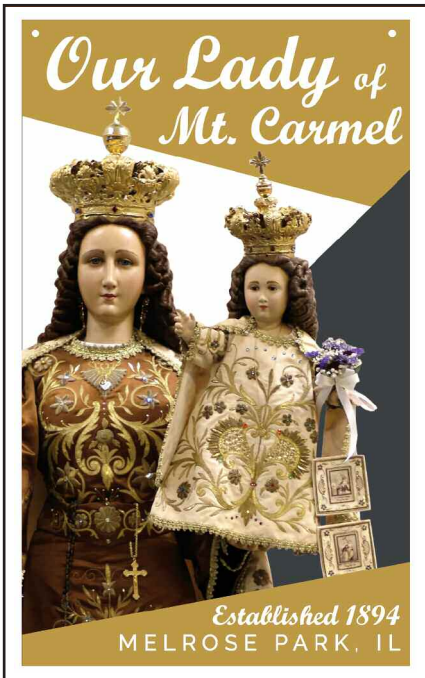
The Italian Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

BLOCK PARTY

Friday, July 17

5pm - 11pm

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
23rd Avenue & Cortez Street
Melrose Park



EVENT SCHEDULE

6:00 - 8:00 PM	DJ TONY O
7:30 - 8:30 PM	NOVENA
8:00 - 10:00 PM	JERSEY GIRLS
10:00 - 11:00 PM	DJ TONY O

SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

\$400 SPONSOR RECOGNITION
ONE RESERVED TABLE

\$150 ONE RESERVED TABLE



FAMILY • FRIENDS • ITALIAN BEEF & SAUSAGE
PIZZA • LEZZA'S CANNOLIS & ITALIAN LEMONADE
CIGAR HOUSE • 50/50 RAFFLE • BEER • WINE • WATER



ALL FOOD \$5. PURCHASE TICKETS AT EVENT.

Donate
Sponsor
Support



The Italian Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

BLOCK PARTY

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
1101 N. 23rd Ave. Melrose Park, IL. 60160



Feast Block Party Donation Instructions & Options

- I would like to donate \$250 for a sponsorship
- I would like to donate \$400 for sponsorship and a Table Reservation (10)
- I would like to donate \$150 and reserve a Table Reservation for 10.

Make all checks payable to:

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish,
in the memo section, **Feast Block Party.**

Scan QR code to Donate



Name of Sponsorship (*company Name / Family Name*)

**** Your sponsorship will be displayed on digital billboard for everyone to see ****

Mail any donations to:

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, 1101 N. 23rd Ave, Melrose Park IL 60160.
Include a business card or company logo so we can promote your business and services during the celebration.

- The Parish will send you any documentation for your Charitable donations for tax purposes.
- Your Email address. _____

Thank you for your generous support!

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

*Special
Masses
and
Events*

Call
(708) 344-4140
for more
information.

AUGUST 2026
Special Masses & Events



Sunday **2**

*Feast of
St Roch*

12:00 pm English Mass
Follow by procession
Reception in the Parish Gym



Saturday **15**

*Feast of
the Assumption*

5:30 pm English Mass
Rosary followed by Mass



Saturday • Sunday

*CCP
Orientation*

15

4:00 pm Pastor meets the
Parents in the Parish Gym

16

10:00 am Pastor Meets the Parents

Saturday • Sunday

*CCP
Begins*

22

▪ **23**

Parents and Children - Classrooms assignments

29

▪ **30**

Children - First Day of Catechism Classes



Sunday **23**

*Ministry and
Outreach Fair*

All Parish groups will present their ministries
10:00 am to 3:00 pm under the tent



Sunday **30**

*Saint
Padre Pio*

10:30 am Italian Mass
Followed by Reception in St Anthony's room

**OUR LADY OF
MOUNT CARMEL**



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

Join Melrose Park Boy Scout Troop 4112 Today!



**The Melrose Park
Boy Scouts Program
is Looking for
New Members.**

Any boys interested in joining the troop are encouraged to call Fred Crancich at (708) 609-5539.

To learn more about the Boy Scouts of America, including information on exploring, activities, membership details and more, visit www.scouting.org.

Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

The Melrose Park Village Hall will be closed for the following holidays: 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: July 27; Aug. 24; Sept. 28; Oct. 26; Nov. 23; and Dec. 28.

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

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SAME GREAT AL PIEMONTE PRICES
SAME GREAT AL PIEMONTE COMMITMENT
TO CUSTOMER SATISFACTION**



Sammy Alfano
sammya@apnissan.com





SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

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



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



Religious Education News

*"Catechesis is an education in the faith of children, young people and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life."
Catechism of the Catholic Church, Prologue 1-25 (II. Handing on the Faith: Catechesis)*

The Religious Education Program (REP) operates under the direction of the policies and procedures of the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is a **consecutive two year** program per Sacrament.

The Religious Education Program is here to prepare children for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Our program strives to deepen faith, personal encounters and relationships with Jesus Christ.

Our commitment as of Catechist is to catechize the Faith of the Roman Catholic Church, both by word and example.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION (Two Year Program per Sacrament)

Registration Requirements:

- Baptism Certificate
- Birth Certificate
- 1st Communion Certificate
(for 1st year of Confirmation)

REGISTRATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2026

Register at our parish Rectory office (819 N. 16th Ave., Melrose Park on Iowa Street)

TUESDAYS
THURSDAYS
FRIDAYS
SATURDAYS

10am to 6pm
10am to 4pm
11am to 7pm
9am to 3pm



Scan the **QR Code** shown here with a smartphone to be directed to our parish's REP webpage where you may view all information related to our program in English or Spanish including registration fees.



SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH



WEBSITE: shsparish.org

PHONE: 708-344-0757

EMAIL: shseparish@archchicago.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



First Friday Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

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

Upcoming dates: **July 3** at **Sacred Heart** and **Aug. 7** at **St. Eulalia**

Adoration & Anointing of the Sick on AUGUST 13

7:00pm at **Sacred Heart** for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be a Women's Club Camaraderie meeting afterwards.



Thursday Adoration and Confession at 7:00pm

July 16 & **July 30** and **August 13** & **August 27** at **Sacred Heart.**
July 9 & **July 23** and **August 20** 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.**



Taco Sale on JULY 18

5:00pm to **8:00pm** at **Sacred Heart.**

SAVE THE DATE for St. Eulalia August Fest

This year **St. Eulalia's August Fest** is on **Sunday, August 23.** More info will be available in the coming months. Stay up-to-date via our parish website at shsparish.org.



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 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**



PROVISO TOWNSHIP BRIEFS

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

Proviso Public Partnership 14th Annual Golf Outing Set for Monday, Aug. 10

The Proviso Public Partnership is excited to invite you to our 14th Annual Golf Outing at La Grange Country Club. We are once again pleased to be hosted by one of the area's premier private courses and look forward to another outstanding day on the course.

Sponsorship opportunities and full event details are included here. We hope you'll join us for a great day with great people – all while supporting the incredible services provided throughout Proviso Township. We look forward to seeing you at this year's outing.

The day's schedule is as follows – check-in and lunch, 11 a.m.; shotgun start (scramble format), 12:30 p.m.

Golf outing includes lunch, cigars, candy, snacks and adult beverages available all day, longest drive and closest-to-the-hole competition. After golf, enjoy dinner and three hours of premium open bar with cocktail service.

The Proviso Public Partnership 14th Annual Golf Outing 2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

All items will come with your personalized logo prominently displayed on the item of your choosing.

Sponsorship submissions must be received on or before July 13.

- Caddy Sponsorship (Your logo displayed on all caddy bibs.) – \$2,500
- Dinner Beverage Sponsorship (3 ft. x 2 ft. banner w/your logo.) – \$2,500
- Course Beverage Sponsorship (3 ft. x 2 ft. banner w/your logo.) – \$1,500
- Lunch Sponsorship (3 ft. x 6 ft. banner w/your logo.) – \$1,500
- Giveaway Sponsorship (Contact us for available items.) – \$1,000
- Cigar Sponsorship (3 ft. x 2 ft. banner w/your logo.) – \$750
- Cart Sponsorship (Limit two – your logo shown on all golf carts.) – \$750
- Beat The Joe Sponsorship (3 ft. x 6 ft. banner w/your logo.) – \$750
- Candy Sponsorship (3 ft. x 2 ft. banner w/your logo.) – \$500
- Putting Green Sponsorship (Limit five – 3 ft. x 6 ft. banner w/your logo.) – \$500
- Bag Drop Sponsorship (3 ft. x 6 ft. banner w/your logo.) – \$500
- Foursome, Dinner and One Hole Sign – \$1,600
- Golf and Dinner Package – \$400
- Hole Sign – \$150
- Dinner Package – \$100



If your selected sponsorship is already taken, we will reach out and you can choose a comparable option.

Thank you to all those who have already committed to a sponsorship!

For more information or to register, please call Kate – 708-234-8661 or Joe – 708-234-8665.

Space is limited to 100 golfers – reserve your group today.

LaGrange Country Club is located at 20 S. Brainard Ave., La Grange, IL 60525.

CASINO

DATES

2026

July 1 • Hard Rock (Rockford)
 Aug. 3 • Grand Victoria
 Sept. 2 • Rivers (Des Plaines)
 Oct. 7 • Four Winds
 Nov. 2 • Wind Creek
 Dec. 2 • Four Winds

Call us at (708) 449-4300 for more info!



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.



We are inviting you to celebrate with us our 9th Annual

Proviso Township Senior Citizen Day

Friday, August 14, 2026

10 AM—2 PM

4565 Harrison St.
Hillside, IL 60162

Come enjoy some food, music, entertainment, raffles, informational vendors and more.

No reservations are required. Giveaways and food will be limited. Parking will only be available at the Proviso West High School parking lot on Harrison St. No street parking is allowed. There will be shuttle service to and from the parking lot and the township office.

For reasons of safety and fairness, Registration will not start before 10 AM, you will not be allowed in the festival grounds before we open. Waiting in line prior to 10 AM is highly discouraged as there is no seating area, you will wait standing.

Questions? Please contact us at 708-449-4307



Free Hearing and Retinal Screenings done by
the Westchester Lions Club



Proviso Township Handyman Program

Summer 2026 – Proviso Township Handyman News

Time to enjoy your garden and listen to the birds sing. We can help you bring out your summer furniture so you can enjoy the warmth of the sun. It's also time to caulk around your windows. Are you watering your garden or lawn? Do you notice your outdoor spigot drips after you turn it off? Keep your water bills from skyrocketing by having your spigot checked.

The Proviso Township Handyman Program serves homeowners over the age of 60 and disabled homeowners who are residents of Proviso Township.

Call us at (708) 547-4001 to schedule an appointment and register for our program.



Bellwood · Berkeley · Broadview · Brookfield · Forest Park · Hillside ·
LaGrange Park · Maywood · Melrose Park · North Riverside · Northlake
· Stone Park · Westchester · Western Springs

+ Only Homeowners within the boundaries of the Proviso Township+

Michael A. Corrigan
Supervisor

Anthony "Tony" Williams
Clerk

Steven J. Zawaski
Assessor

Gay F. Chase • Evelyn Chavez • Joseph Christopher • Tommy Olson
Trustees

Proviso Township Handyman Program



Handyman Program for homeowners over the age of 60 and/or disabled residents of Proviso Township.

- Minor repairs only.
- \$5 per visit plus cost of parts, if needed.
- Provide referrals on a variety of home maintenance issues.
- Appointments are 45 minutes or less.

The Proviso Township Handyman Program Only Serves Homeowners Within the Boundaries of Proviso Township.
 Bellwood · Berkeley · Broadview · Brookfield · Forest Park · Hillside · LaGrange Park
 Maywood · Melrose Park · Northlake · North Riverside · Stone Park · Westchester · Western Springs

Please call us at (708) 547-4001 if you have any questions and to schedule your appointment



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

PROVISO TOWNSHIP – Your Neighbors, Your Government

MICHAEL A. CORRIGAN, SUPERVISOR

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

Gay F. Chase, Trustee • Evelyn Chavez, Trustee

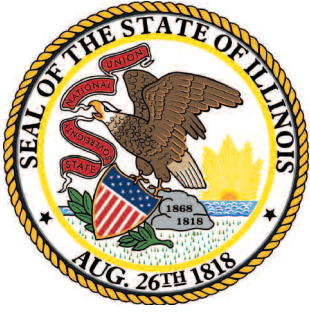
Joseph Christopher, Trustee • Tommy Olson, Trustee

Here to Serve Melrose Park & Surrounding Communities

Thank You Mayor Serpico!



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



Illinois State Representative
NORMA HERNANDEZ
77th District



*Illinois State Representative
 Norma Hernandez*

News from the State Capital

This spring, Springfield was both busy and meaningful as we continued advancing legislation centered on the needs of our communities. I was proud to



pass SB 4041, the O'Hare Sound Mitigation Grant Program Act, which would establish a grant program through the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics to help support sound mitigation efforts for residential homes surrounding O'Hare International Airport in the 77th District. I also passed House Resolution 875, honoring the rapid responders of Illinois for their dedication, compassion and continued commitment to supporting communities across the state during times of crisis and uncertainty.

As we prepared for the final week of the Spring 2026 Legislative Session, conversations around the Fiscal Year 2027 state budget remained front and center and I will continue fighting to ensure our communities are prioritized in the decisions we make moving forward.



Mezcal Ribbon Cutting and Dutch Bros Grand Opening

This month, our office had the honor of welcoming two new businesses to the Melrose Park community and celebrating their ribbon-cutting ceremonies alongside them.

One of these businesses is Mexcal, an upscale restaurant offering a unique blend of Mexican cuisine with Italian and American influences. Their menu features breakfast, lunch and dinner options for the community to enjoy. Be sure to visit them at 1105 W. Lake Street in Melrose Park!



We also had the pleasure of celebrating the grand opening of Dutch Bros Coffee, welcoming their first Chicagoland location to the community. Dutch Bros is a popular drive-thru coffee chain known for its handcrafted beverages, friendly service and strong involvement in supporting local communities through community partnerships. We are excited to see them become a part of the Melrose Park community.

Celebrating Latino Unity Day

During the month of May, many community members and advocates, constituents and stakeholders got together to celebrate Latino Unity Day. As co-chair of the Latino Caucus, I had the chance to speak on behalf of my community to those who have been affected by this administration to create fear and destruction. This rally was about power. The power to demand resources and make sure our communities are seen in every budget and every decision. We are not going to accept a future where our kids have less than we did.





Highlighting Congressman "Chuy" Garcia's Retirement

During the week, I also had the honor of highlighting Congressman Jesus "Chuy" Garcia's retirement and presented House Resolution 857, commending his lifetime of public service. The resolution honors his legacy of strong representation for immigrants and working-class communities, and for leading the fight to end collaboration with ICE in Cook County.



Illinois Revenue Alliance Press Conference

I also joined the Illinois Revenue Alliance press conference to push for progressive revenue and demand that billionaires pay their fair share. I am the lead sponsor for the digital ad tax, a vital step toward modernizing our tax code and ensuring that those who benefit the most contribute back. Finally, congratulations to the Union Pacific Railroad Chicago Service Unit, Cerwin Flemming and all other team members on earning the Safety Bell Award.



Mayors Roundtable

I recently hosted a roundtable discussion with Senate President Don Harmon bringing mayors and township supervisors from the 77th District together. This year brings real challenges from federal cuts, to ongoing instability and it was critical for me to have these conversations about what our communities are facing. From affordability pressures and high property taxes to SNAP cuts, families are feeling it everyday. These conversations help ensure we're fighting for a state budget that actually delivers where resources reach our communities. Thank you to our mayors and elected leaders for your partnership and leadership. We're in this together.

Youth Ambassador Program Welcomes State Sen. Karina Villa



We are in the final stretch of our Youth Ambassador Program and it has been incredibly rewarding to watch our youth remain committed to public service throughout this journey. From attending village board, school board and library board meetings to volunteering with our office and engaging directly with the community, we could not be more proud of their growth and dedication over the course of the program.

For our final official meeting, we were honored to welcome Sen. Karina Villa as a guest speaker. Sen. Villa shared her personal story and spoke about her passion for working with youth, drawing from her experience as a former school social worker.

As we prepare to conclude the program, we are excited to see all the amazing things these young leaders will accomplish in the future.



News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

First Business Services Resource Fair Draws Hundreds, Connects Entrepreneurs to Critical Resources

Free Event Brought Together Aspiring and Established Business Owners with Licensing, Registration, Tax and Funding Support

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias highlighted the success of the office's first-ever Business Services Resource Fair, which drew more than 500 attendees from across Illinois to connect with the tools and resources needed to start and grow a business.

Held on April 27 at Malcolm X College, the free event brought together state, county and city agencies alongside private-sector business development organizations to provide entrepreneurs with direct access to licensing, registration, tax and funding guidance – all in one place.

"Too many people with great ideas never get their business off the ground because the process can feel confusing, expensive and stacked against them," Giannoulias said. "This is exactly the kind of work government should be doing: breaking down barriers and making it easier for people to pursue opportunity. When we support entrepreneurs, we're not just helping individual businesses, we're strengthening communities and growing our economy."

Attendees remained engaged throughout the four-hour event, with more than 200 participants seated for presentations and many others visiting exhibitor tables to receive hands-on guidance and connect directly with experts.

The fair attracted a diverse mix of first-time entrepreneurs and small business owners, with exhibitors noting a particularly strong turnout of individuals looking to start a business, a group that is often harder to reach.

Participants received step-by-step guidance on how to register a business in Illinois, apply for state and federal tax identification numbers, obtain business licenses and explore funding opportunities such as loans and grants. Attendees also learned how to do business with government agencies and accessed support from organizations focused on small business development.

Feedback from both attendees and exhibitors was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the event's accessibility and the ability to access a wide range of resources in a single location. Several participating organizations described the fair as one of the most effective and well-attended events they have participated in.

The Secretary of State's Business Services division oversees business entities – foreign and domestic – formed or registered to conduct business in Illinois, including corporations, not-for-profits, limited liability companies (LLCs), limited partnerships (LPs) and limited liability partnerships (LLPs).

For more information on starting or managing a business in Illinois, visit www.ilsos.gov/departments/business-services.html.

Giannoulias Unveils First-Ever Business Services Center, Streamlining Services for Faster, More Convenient Access

Centralized Downtown Location Saves Nearly \$650K and Improves Efficiency by Bringing Business, Index and DMV Kiosk Services Together

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias has announced the opening of the office's first-ever Business Services Center in downtown Chicago, bringing together key business-related services in a centralized, customer-focused location while reducing operational costs.

Located on the first floor at 160 N. LaSalle St., the new Business Services Center reflects the office's continued efforts to modernize operations, improve accessibility and better serve Illinois entrepreneurs, business owners and residents requiring document authentication services.

"For the first time, we are creating a dedicated space focused on the needs of Illinois businesses and customers seeking critical document services," Giannoulias said. "By bringing Business Services and Index Services together under one roof, we are improving efficiency, reducing wait times and making it easier for customers to access the services they need quickly and conveniently."

The office's Business Services Department previously operated out of a leased facility at 69 W. Washington St., where it had been located since 2001 at an annual cost of more than \$580,000. In June 2025, the Index Department relocated from its leased space at 17 N. State St., which cost over

\$63,000 annually to join Business Services at that location. The move to 160 N. LaSalle St., a state-owned building, eliminates nearly \$650,000 in ongoing lease costs while creating a centralized hub designed specifically for business and document-related transactions.

At nearly 5,000 square feet, the center provides additional space to streamline customer flow and enhance service delivery. The facility is staffed by 31 employees trained to support both business filings and document authentication services.

The Business Services Center will operate 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

The office's Business Services Department handles a high volume of in-person transactions. The most frequently requested services include LLC and corporation filings, obtaining certified copies of business records and securing certificates of good standing.

In addition to in-person services, the facility includes a Fast-Lane DMV kiosk, allowing customers to complete common motor vehicle transactions in minutes.

The services offered at the Business Services Center include:

- Business Services – Expedited services and certified copies, filing articles of incorporation and amendments for corporations and LLCs, assistance with certificates of good standing and reinstatements, trademark filings and uniform commercial code (UCC) filings.
- Index Services – Apostilles and foreign document processing for customers requiring certification of official documents for international use.
- Fast-Lane Kiosk – Renewal of driver's licenses and state IDs, and purchase of vehicle registration stickers with immediate on-site printing of temporary documents.

The opening of the Business Services Center represents another step in the office's broader modernization strategy to enhance customer service, consolidate operations, reduce costs and deliver more efficient government services to the public.

Giannoulas Ends Mandatory Road Tests for Drivers Ages 79-86

Road Safety & Fairness Act Takes Effect July 1, Replacing Outdated Age-Based Requirement with Smarter, Data-Driven Approach

A major component of Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas' Road Safety & Fairness Act will begin next month with the elimination of the state's mandatory behind-the-wheel driving tests for Illinois drivers ages 79-86.

Starting July 1, the new law raises the age at which Illinois drivers must take a driving test from 79 to 87, removing an outdated age-based requirement that made Illinois the only state in the nation to require a behind-the-wheel test solely because of a driver's age.

Instead, the new law shifts the focus to a person's ability to drive safely – rather than the date of their birth certificate.

"The Road Safety & Fairness Act is about replacing outdated assumptions with facts," Giannoulas said. "Illinois seniors have consistently proven they are among the safest drivers on our roads. This law removes an unnecessary burden for older drivers while preserving strong safeguards to protect everyone who travels on our streets."

Under the Road Safety & Fairness Act, drivers ages 79-86 will still be required renew their licenses in person at a DMV and pass a vision screening but will no longer be required to take a behind-the-wheel driving test solely because of their age.

Beginning July 1, renewal requirements will be as follows:

- Ages 79-80 – Renew every four years, in person, with a vision test. No driving test required.
- Ages 81-86 – Renew every two years, in person, with a vision test. No driving test required.
- Ages 87 and Older – Continue annual in-person renewal with a vision test and behind-the-wheel driving test. These requirements remain unchanged.

There are approximately 350,000 Illinois drivers between the ages of 79 and 86. Approximately 55,000 of those take a driving test annually. In advance of the law taking effect, the Secretary of State's Office has sent letters to those Illinois drivers whose licenses are up for renewal about the change in the law.

The law does not change requirements for commercial driver's license (CDL) holders, who must continue taking a behind-the-wheel driving test beginning at age 75 and at each subsequent renewal.

Importantly, the law strengthens road safety by creating a new process that allows immediate family members to report legitimate concerns when a loved one's medical condition, vision impairment or driving behavior may affect their ability to drive safely. Any report is independently reviewed by the Secretary of State's Office and a driver's license is not automatically affected simply because a report is submitted.

For years, Illinois has been the only state in the nation that requires senior drivers to have their behind-the-wheel skills tested on a regular basis. The last two states that mandated driving tests for seniors did away with them in 2011 (New Hampshire) and 2005 (Indiana).

The changes are supported by extensive safety data. According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, drivers age 75 and older had a crash rate of 25.54 per 1,000 licensed drivers in 2024 – lower than every age group between 16 and 74.

The legislation also builds on a temporary policy implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic that raised the mandatory road test age from 75 to 79. In 2024, that change was made permanent after an office-commissioned study found no significant increase in crashes among affected age groups.

The Road Safety & Fairness Act was championed by Secretary Giannoulas and AARP Illinois and passed the General Assembly unanimously with bipartisan support, reflecting a shared commitment to treating seniors fairly while keeping Illinois roads safe..

To learn more, visit www.ilsos.gov/.



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

Treasurer Michael Frerichs Relaunches State Retirement Program for Small Businesses with Lower Fees and New Name

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs recently announced lower fees and technology improvements for employers and savers of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program.

“A decade ago, too many Illinois workers didn’t have an easy way to save for retirement at work, so we set up a low-cost solution,” Frerichs said. “Now, workers have saved more than \$300 million thanks to our Secure Choice Retirement Program. But we are always looking to improve and we are cutting fees, making it cost less so they can save more.”

The Illinois Secure Choice Retirement Program will become My Illinois Savings. Frerichs’ office facilitates the retirement savings program for private-sector workers. Research has consistently shown that retirement benefits both attract and retain employees. My Illinois Savings gives Illinois private-sector employers an easy way to offer a valuable retirement savings benefit with no charge to their business.

“Today we are helping more than 170,000 workers across all 102 counties save and grow their own money so that they can eventually retire and enjoy their golden years,” Frerichs said.

“As small business owners, we’re pulled in a lot of different directions. At Green Paws Chicago, we’ve been intentional about building a professional W-2 workforce, including giving our employees access to long-term savings and retirement growth. My Illinois Savings helps us stay compliant, offers a meaningful benefit to our team and does it without adding to our administrative workload,” said Robb Hendrickson, co-founder, Green Paws Chicago.

The improvements come as the program transitions to Vestwell as its new program manager. Vestwell, a leading provider of Auto IRA programs, was selected by the Treasurer’s Office through a competitive bidding process and will oversee day-to-day operations, including online account access, contribution processing, customer service and investment administration.

“During a period of widespread financial anxiety when people are feeling particularly fragile, state programs like My Illinois Savings demonstrate the value of public-private partnerships. By enabling people of modest means to own stocks, savings and retirement accounts, these programs help build wealth and provide accessible financial resources. While not solving every financial challenge, they make financial security more attainable for Illinoisans,” shared Horacio Mendez, president and CEO of the Woodstock Institute.

“Illinois is continuing to lead the way in expanding access to retirement savings,” said Douglas Magnolia, chief revenue officer & president, Vestwell Government Savings at Vestwell. “State-facilitated programs like My Illinois Savings are critical to closing the retirement savings gap and these updates will make it easier for more workers, especially those without access to workplace plans, to build long-term financial security – and we’re proud to be part of making that happen.”

“I appreciate that My Illinois Savings makes saving feel simple. My account stays with me if I change jobs, and using a target date retirement fund means I don’t have to manage it day to day. It feels good knowing that a little from each paycheck is in the background and helping me build something for the future,” said Katey Prado, head of Client Experience, Green Paws Chicago

“AARP Illinois, on behalf of its 1.7 million members, was proud to help make My Illinois Savings a reality from the start. This groundbreaking program remains a national model for expanding retirement savings access for workers without traditional options. But with many Illinoisans still not saving and anxious about their financial future, we are committed to ensuring that the program reaches more workers so they can build long-term security with dignity and peace of mind,” shared Philippe Largent, state director, AARP Illinois.

What is Changing and What Remains the Same

Secure Choice will be renamed to My Illinois Savings as the retirement program transitions to a new recordkeeping platform, delivering a more streamlined experience for both employers and savers. An upgraded employer portal will offer automated payroll deductions and contribution submissions through integrations with some of the country’s largest payroll providers, including Gusto, Paychex and QuickBooks Online. The saving experience will become easier, too. My Illinois Savings will have a new, easy to use online portal and a mobile app. This program transition makes My Illinois Savings one of the lowest-cost auto IRA programs for savers.

What Remains Unchanged

- Workers save through automatic payroll deductions into a Roth IRA that they own and control.
- Employers facilitate the program, but do not contribute, pay program fees or have fiduciary responsibility.

“For nearly 10 years we have been helping employees and employers. Today we are improving the program by lowering costs and improving the experience for savers,” Frerichs said. “Their retirement savings belong to them and will stay with them throughout their careers, even if they change jobs.”

Transition Information

Saver accounts and investment selections automatically transfer to the new system. Employers and savers will need to retrieve their accounts through the new portal to view balances, update information and manage payroll contributions.

More Information is Available

- Employer Assistance: (855) 650-6913.
- Employee Assistance: (855) 650-6914.

- Email: clientservices@ilsecurechoice.com.
- Website: www.ilsecurechoice.com/home/conversion.

About Illinois Secure Choice/My Illinois Savings

My Illinois Savings, formerly Illinois Secure Choice, is a state-facilitated retirement savings program for private-sector workers. It offers an individual retirement account, or IRA, for people who do not have access to a retirement plan through work, are self-employed or want a simple way to save on their own.

Workers can save through payroll deduction or self-funding, helping them prepare for retirement.

Workers do not need to enroll through an employer to participate. Someone who is self-employed, freelance or whose employer is not registered with the program can open an account if they are otherwise eligible to open an IRA.

Participants can change their contribution rate, choose investment options or opt out at any time. Employers do not contribute to employee accounts, do not pay program fees and are not responsible for managing the program.

Since launching in 2018, My Illinois Savings has helped expand access to retirement savings across Illinois.

Quick Facts

- 170,151 Illinois workers have enrolled in the program.
- \$339 million+ saved for retirement by Illinois workers.
- 25,000+ employers registered across the state.
- 102 of 102 Illinois counties are represented in the program.

Treasurer Frerichs Eclipses \$2.5 Billion in Money Returned to Residents, Businesses, Nonprofits

Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs today has returned over \$2.5 billion in missing money on his watch, breaking all records in an I-Cash program that has been around since the 1960s.

More than 2.5 million people, nonprofits and businesses have been reunited with their missing money since Frerichs took office in 2015. Frerichs modernized I-Cash, allowing people to file electronic claims, taking on powerful insurance companies to return money to beneficiaries and cross-referencing state databases to return money without people even needing to file a claim.

“We took a lot of steps to fix our state’s unclaimed property program and put money back in people’s pockets where it belongs,” Frerichs said. “Our approach is to run a different kind of government office that uses our tools to fight for the people of Illinois.”

A recent missing money return that helped eclipse the \$2.5 billion mark was sending the \$440,000 left by the late Joseph and Emilia Maldonado to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, a nonprofit that is seeking a cure for childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

Joseph Maldonado was an engineer who came to the U.S. from Argentina. Emilia Maldonado worked in a factory after her family came to the U.S. from Italy. He passed in 2017 and she passed in 2022. The couple thought highly of St. Jude, a top-rated national charitable organization. Two years later, the couple’s bank turned the money over to the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office, as required by law, and the office worked to get the money to St. Jude.

Unclaimed property includes forgotten or overlooked bank accounts, uncashed rebate checks, unpaid life insurance claims and the contents of abandoned safe deposit boxes. When companies and banks cannot return these items to the rightful owners, by law, they are turned over to the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office. The state treasurer is legally required to return unclaimed property to its owners or their heirs, no matter how long it takes.

A key fight in Frerichs’ efforts to reform the unclaimed property program was taking on the insurance industry. Previously, some life insurance companies did not pay death benefits when they knew, or should have known, a customer died. State treasurer’s audits found more than \$550 million in death benefits that were not paid to grieving families in Illinois. Treasurer Frerichs changed this unethical practice by working with state lawmakers to approve legislation that established the Unclaimed Life Insurance Benefits Act.

As a result of Treasurer Frerichs’ efforts, more than \$500 million in unclaimed life insurance policies has been paid directly to beneficiaries.

“People buy life insurance policies to help take care of family after they pass, not boost the bottom line of insurance companies,” Frerichs said. “I’m proud to have taken on this fight and return so much money to Illinois families as a result.”

Frerichs also worked with lawmakers to allow claims to be filed more easily electronically and to create the Enhanced Money Match Program, which removes the “claim” from unclaimed property by automatically returning money after some information is electronically verified. The effort has returned more than \$130 million to more than 870,000 people since 2018.

Also added was a “share” button on the I-Cash website to allow people to alert family and friends when they see there is missing money waiting to be claimed, as well as a Spanish-language I-Cash website.

Other highlights of Frerichs’ I-Cash efforts include:

- \$11 million returned to the estate of a Chicago man who died of natural causes just before Christmas, the largest returned unclaimed property amount in the nation’s history.
- More than \$4 million was returned to people through TV telethons in Rockford, Peoria, Champaign and the Quad Cities.
- \$2 million was returned to several Chicago-area philanthropies left to them by a Chicago man, a World War II Army veteran and lifelong bachelor. The money was from an investment account that languished because the decorated soldier’s surviving family members passed away before he did.
- \$200,000 returned to the Orphans of the Storm in Lake County from a woman who had named the animal shelter as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- \$100,000 returned to a Chicago-area woman who adopted two children after their family perished in an auto accident. The State Treasurer’s Office obtained the money for the woman after auditors discovered an unpaid life insurance policy.

Treasurer Frerichs urges people to check the I-CASH site (<https://icash.illinoistreasurer.gov/>) twice a year to see if there is money waiting for you.



A Year to Remember at Walther Greetings of Love and Joy to You All, My Walther Family!

As we close this school year, I am filled with gratitude for all God has done in and through our Walther community. My first year as principal has been one of learning, building, refining and celebrating the faithfulness of God at every turn.



Dr. Terence Swims

I am deeply thankful for our head of School, Mr. Tim Bouman, whose leadership and trust have helped set me up for success. He has walked alongside me with wisdom and support, while also giving me room to implement new initiatives, strengthen systems and honor the traditions that make Walther who we are.

This year, we worked intentionally to raise expectations, improve systems, celebrate students and strengthen our school culture. Our teachers and staff have been incredible partners in that work. I challenged them to lean into greater rigor through quality instruction because our students deserve our very best. They answered that call with commitment, care and excellence.

Our students remain the best part of every day. Walther students are unique. They are involved and deeply committed, driven, talented and willing to push themselves in the classroom, in worship, in service, on the stage, court, mats, on the field and beyond! Our students remind us daily why this work matters.

We recently had the bittersweet honor of graduating the Class of 2026. While it is never easy to send students out from a place that has become home, I am confident they are equipped to walk boldly in the calling God has placed on their lives. It has been an honor to help nurture them along the way.

To the Class of 2026 – Congratulations! We are proud of you, we love you and we are praying for you!

Happy summer, Walther family. Thank you for your continued support, prayers, partnership and love! We are already planning for a monumental next school year!

- May God Bless You Abundantly,
Dr. Terence D. Swims

News for June



Bill Koehne

June 30 marks the end of our fiscal year. This is a great time to make a donation to support the important ministry of Walther as we continue to share the Gospel and prepare our students for success. A gift today helps us end our year strong financially. To donate, visit www.walther.com > Donate, to learn of ways to give.

Plans for Homecoming 2026 are underway. Look for a special email toward the end of this month with details of the weekend, including information on the Alumni Concert, Athletic Hall of Fame Induction and Class Reunions.

- Bill Koehne '87, Director of Advancement
Walther Christian Academy

Graduation 2026

Walther's Class of 2026 graduated on Sunday, May 31, in front of many family and friends.

This class pushed themselves academically and accomplished a great deal in their time at Walther. More than half the class took an Honors class while at Walther, nearly 45% took at least one AP course, half taking four of five, and more than a quarter of the class leaves Walther with college credit earned at Concordia University Chicago. In the class of 52 students, 12 earned an Honors diploma by achieving a weighted GPA of 3.8 or higher while taking at least six Honors, AP, or Concordia classes.

In addition to academics, members of this class have led efforts to add faith-based gatherings such as a Discipleship group, Kickstart and Walther's first Worship Night. They have excelled in lead roles in several drama productions, have performed numerous solos in choral and instrumental concerts, and they have completed countless hours participating in service projects.

Our graduates are heading all over the country to pursue a wide variety of majors. Illinois schools our grads are heading to include University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois State, DePaul, Knox College, Concordia and Triton College to name a few. Out-of-state destinations include Xavier University – LA, University of Minnesota, Morehead State – KY, Clark – Atlanta and Jackson State.

To the graduates: We are so proud of this class and wish you well as you move on to new and exciting adventures. Remember, you may be leaving Walther now, but you will always be part of the Walther family. Go with God, Broncos.



Walther Teacher Presents at NSTA

Back in April, Walther science teacher Vanessa Ueltzen led two sessions for members of the National Science Teachers Association at their national conference in Anaheim, California. She led sessions that included Alternative Assessments in a High School Earth Science Classroom and Teaching



Vanessa Ueltzen

Engineering on a Budget. But, this was not new for Mrs. Ueltzen. With the encouragement of Dr. Selina Bartels, Mrs. Ueltzen began presenting at this conference in 2019. The first year they presented together, and since 2021 Vanessa has presented multiple sessions independently.

In 2017, when Walther opened the middle school, one of the focuses was on STEM. The Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation (CLEF) agreed to finance an initiative to create a new STEM focused curriculum and Dr. Bartels, with her expertise in next generation science standards (NGSS) and work with pre-service STEM educators was hired to help lead the effort. Vanessa was hired in early August with the plan that she would work with Dr. Bartels to create the new curriculum. "We started that first year with Physical Science for the eighth graders and Earth & Space Science for the sixth and seventh graders," Vanessa explained. "We were working one unit ahead of the students the whole year." Then, in the summer of 2018, they created a Life Science curriculum for eighth grade, moving Physical Science to seventh grade. "It was a lot of work, but I really enjoyed the process. At the time, STEM was typically taught as an independent course, often as an elective for enrichment. We took the approach of integrating the STEM process into the full curriculum using the NGSS standards as the framework".

Over that first year, they created a scope and sequence and developed close to 20 units in outline form with objectives related to the standards. There is no textbook. Instead they use a number of high-quality online resources. "What I like about this format," Vanessa shared, "is that it allows me to customize the instruction each year to meet the needs of my students. The objectives and standards don't change, but the delivery and activities can."

Mrs. Ueltzen has since gone on to create a new curriculum for Integrated Science, a class taught to most of our freshmen. The focus there is to develop skills for success in future science classes through a variety of lab experiences. Units include Water, Climate Change, Forensics and Engineering. The high school Earth Science curriculum has also been overhauled to insure NGSS alignment. This course is taught to sophomores, juniors and seniors, and counts as a lab science toward graduation requirements.

"While working on the first few courses, Dr. Bartels encouraged me to attend and consider presenting at professional conferences. In 2019, we presented together on integrating STEM with the NGSS standards. It has been a great experience. I design my presentations at these conferences to include discussion and sharing of ideas, so I always walk away with new ideas as well. I have certainly grown professionally through this process and continue to look forward to presenting on new topics."

Walther Alumni Spotlight

Michael Tuomi, Walther Class of 2003, is the vice president of Health, Safety, Environmental, Quality & Training for Liberty Energy, a major energy industry service provider specializing in next-generation technology for the development of energy resources and data center power generation. Michael oversees all the regulatory compliance work for Liberty Energy, as the company is regulated by hundreds of local, state and national government agencies. With more than 120 employees under his management, his team works across North America and Australia to implement and facilitate systems that ensure regulatory and quality compliance, reduce operational risk, and mitigate impact to personnel, communities and the environment.

Michael did not have a typical path to this position. After graduating from the University of Illinois in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree, Michael moved to Colorado and started a personal training business partnering with the Denver Public Schools and various major trucking companies. In 2014, after a meeting in North Dakota regarding a new project and while stuck in a two-hour delay at the airport, he got into a long conversation with the person sitting next to him. The next day he received a call from the head of Human Resources at Liberty Energy, which at the time was only a couple years into its existence, stating that their COO was impressed with him and wanted Michael to come in for an interview. "You never know who you are sitting next to in an airport," Michael shared. "But if you are good with people, you will find opportunities. I did not know anything about the industry, but they believed I was the person for the job. I grinded and learned my way through it. My current position happened organically. I was ready to adapt to whatever moment I was in and now I lead a large team doing important work. I find great value and purpose in the work that we do and when we work for each other it becomes especially meaningful."

Michael shared that his Physics class at Walther is the one that prepared him the most for this work. "It was Mr. Marusek's outside-the-box, hands-on, pragmatic approach that took theory into application and inspired me to be a problem solver. The other was Mr. Koehne's Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus class. "When I won the Math Department Award, I realized I was pretty good at math. It gave me the confidence to approach new problems."

While at Walther, Michael participated in cross country, wrestling and baseball, as well Scholastic Bowl and WYSE. "You learn a lot about yourself on the wrestling mat. No one can come help you when you get thrown to your back, you have to dig deep and figure a way out." He described his favorite memories as being the "in-between" moments. "It was the bus rides with teammates, talking in the dugout between innings or in between matches at a wrestling tournament that I really appreciated. I still text my teammates at times about something from those conversations and we pick up right where we left off."

While thinking about faith development, Michael commented, "I value that I was raised in parochial education throughout my life. Walther is such a multi-cultural place. Students come from different Christian backgrounds, but in chapel we come together in faith and unite. We realize we are a lot more similar than we may originally think."

"Walther has had a lasting impact in my career and on who I am as a person. I'm excited about the direction the school is heading for many more kids to have the same opportunity."



Michael Tuomi

Save the Date! • Homecoming – Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction – 10 a.m. • Football Game – 1 p.m.

Watch for more details on Alumni Weekend activities as they become available.



Check Out These Seasonal Events and Activities at the Cook County Forest Preserves

***Join Our Programming
Teams and Naturalists
for Some Upcoming
Fun, Educational
In-Person and
Virtual Offerings***

www.fpdcc.com

Pride in the Preserves: Flags & Exhibit – Now-Tuesday, June 30

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

This “raised flags” exhibit highlights the contributions of LGBTQ2S+ conservation leaders whose work has shaped and inspired the conservation movement.

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

Senior Fitness Walk – Wednesday, July 1 • 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).

Stories in the Forest – Thursday, July 2 • 10 a.m.

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

Join the River Forest Public Library for storytelling! Ages up to 5 w/adult. Drop in.

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

Naturalist Night Out: Owls – Thursday, July 2 • 7 p.m.

Spears Woods (96th Avenue, South of 87th Street, Near Willow Springs)

Join us for a themed stroll under the World’s Largest Urban Night Sky Place.

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

Prairie Fireworks – Saturday, July 4-Friday, July 31

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

As part of America 250, follow signs for a self-guided hike to learn about prairie influence on history, culture and its explosion of colorful flowers.

Cost – Free. Contact – (630) 257-2045.

Red, White & Black – Saturday, July 4 • 10 a.m.

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

As part of America 250, join us for a walk and presentation to search for local woodpeckers and learn about their amazing traits.

Cost – Free.

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

Freedom in Nature Self-Guided Reflection Hike – Saturday, July 4 • 10 a.m.

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

As part of America 250, explore freedom and resilience in nature while celebrating Independence Day through guided reflection prompts along the trail.

Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 868-0606/sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyil.gov.

Red, White and Whooo – Saturday, July 4 • 1:30 p.m.

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

As part of America 250, join us for an up-close look at one of our owls on our national holiday.

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

Bird Banding – Sunday, July 5 • 9 a.m.

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

Visit Sagawau’s bird banders to see and learn about banding. Drop in.

Cost – Free. Contact – (630) 257-2045.

Red, White & Blue Nature Walk – Sunday, July 5 • 10:30 a.m.

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

As part of America 250, join a naturalist for a guided hike on our trails and look for our nation’s flag colors in nature.

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

Dark Night Rising – Tuesday, July 7 • 7:45 p.m.

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

Use binoculars and technology to look at and listen to bat signals on this 1-mile hike.

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

Children’s Storytime – Wednesday, July 8 • 9:30 a.m.

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

As part of America 250, listen to a children’s book read aloud, followed by an activity. An ASL interpreter will be present.

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

Summer Tree ID Walk – Thursday, July 9 • 10 a.m.

Caldwell Woods Wellness Center (6350 W. Devon Ave., Chicago)

Enjoy a guided walk and learn how to identify trees in the summer.

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

Bird Painting Step-By-Step: Indigo Bunting – Friday, July 10 • 9:30 a.m.

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

Sketch and paint a bird on a 9x12 canvas. Cost – \$5/person. All skill levels welcomed. Ages 13 and up.

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

Kids’ Fest – Saturday, July 11 • 10 a.m.

Wampum Lake (Thornton-Lansing Road, West of IL-394, Near Thornton)

Get ready to embrace the beauty of summer, the great outdoors and the wonders of nature at Kids’ Fest 2026! This exciting festival is the perfect way to celebrate the sun-soaked season with your family and friends.

Highlights of Kids’ Fest 2026

- A Day of Outdoor Delights: Bask in the warmth of the summer sun and revel in a day filled with outdoor activities that will keep kids of all ages entertained.
- Nature Exploration: Discover the wonders of the natural world through interactive exhibits, wildlife encounters and educational workshops.
- Creative Crafts: Unleash your artistic talents with hands-on crafting stations that allow kids to express their creativity and bring home their own masterpieces.
- Adventure Zone: Try your hand at archery and enjoy time on Wampum Lake in a canoe.
- Fun for All Ages: Kids’ Fest 2026 is designed for kids and adults alike, ensuring a memorable day out for everyone in the family.

Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 771-9632/experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov (registration required, call for information).

250 Years of America, Thousands of Years of Stories

As the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary, it is worth remembering that some of the most remarkable pieces of American history are not preserved behind glass. They are preserved in the land itself.

Across Cook County, the Forest Preserves protect landscapes that have witnessed thousands of years of human history, long before the United States was even founded. Walk the trails today and you are stepping into a reminder of the natural wonders of our country, as well as a history lesson.

Archaeologists have documented hundreds of sites within the Forest Preserves that reveal a continuous human presence in our region stretching back more than 10,000 years. Discoveries of pottery fragments, stone tools and other artifacts tell the story of Native-American communities who lived, hunted and traveled through the lands of the Council of Three Fires – the Ojibwa, Ottawa and Potawatomi – as well as the Miami, Peoria, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sauk and Meskwaki peoples. Many diverse Native Americans still live and practice their heritage and traditions on this land today.

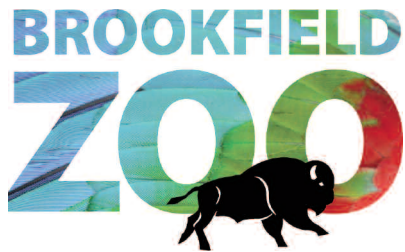
For centuries, Indigenous peoples used a narrow stretch of land in the Chicago Portage preserve to travel between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River. In 1673, the Kaskaskia tribe shared knowledge of the portage with French explorers Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette as they searched for a route to the Mississippi River, helping to continue the legacy of Chicago as a transportation hub.

Forests and river valleys in and adjacent to the Forest Preserves played a role as routes used by freedom seekers traveling north on the Underground Railroad, moving carefully through natural landscapes that provided shelter and concealment on their journey from slavery.

In a way, the Forest Preserves themselves are now part of American history, part of the same movement around the start of the last century that created the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service. Civic leaders created the Forest Preserves of Cook County in 1915 to protect open natural lands from rapid development.

The first purchase in 1916 included 500 acres at what is now Deer Grove. Over the decades the system has grown to more than 70,000 acres of protected land across the county. American history has left a mark on the Preserves too, from the Skokie Lagoons, picnic shelters and other projects of the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression to the many lakes in the Preserves created due to the construction of the Interstate Highway system after WWII.

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



News from the Zoo!

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

Here's a list of some incredible current and upcoming attractions. Be sure to check out our website at www.brookfieldzoo.org for additional happenings.

Want to make the most of your zoo experience? Become a member and you'll get exclusive discounts to most attractions, not to mention so much more!

Brookfield Zoo Chicago Kicks Off Seasonal Fun in Chicagoland with Summer Concerts and Wildlife Experiences for All Ages

Roaring Nights Concert Series, New Dinos! Experience and Anniversary Celebrations Headline Can't-Miss Summer Lineup

Brookfield Zoo Chicago is offering one of the Chicagoland area's largest lineups of summer fun for all ages! Zoo guests can enjoy seasonal attractions, immersive wildlife experiences and live entertainment throughout the zoo all summer long.

Brookfield Zoo Chicago has extended its hours from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. daily and several attractions are at the top of every guest's zoo bucket list:

Dolphin Discovery expands its summer schedule to offer daily shows at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Giraffe Feeding Adventures will be daily, with feedings at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. (weather permitting).

Nature Stage programming has resumed, offering free up-close encounters with Animal Ambassadors during training sessions at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. daily.

Zoo Chats return throughout the zoo, sharing animal insights from experts throughout the day.

Guests can easily access daily activities to plan their zoo experience by visiting brookfieldzoo.org and selecting "Today at Brookfield". These expanded animal encounters and activities are complemented by a full lineup of summer events:

New! Dinos

Something big is stomping at Brookfield Zoo Chicago! Guests can come face-to-face with 35 life-sized dinosaurs in an all-new experience throughout zoo grounds. Dinos! 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.

Wildlife Walking Tours

Back by popular demand, guests can connect with wildlife and nature in a new way during the zoo's Wildlife Walking Tours! This summer, guests will be able to choose between two options for this hour-long tour: Dinosaur Discovery Tour at 10 a.m. or African Safari Tour at 1 p.m. Tours take place, weather permitting, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

New! Dinos After Dark on July 11

Dinos After Dark is a one-of-a-kind, after-hours zoo experience for the kid in your life or the kid-like adult who is a big dino fan. Throw on your coziest pajamas or dino costume and explore the zoo and see all the dinos in the night air. Enjoy unlimited carousel and Ferris Wheel rides and see the zoo like you have never seen before!

Roaring Nights Featuring Blues Traveler on July 24

Harmonica riffs will take center stage as Blues Traveler kicks off Brookfield Zoo Chicago's second concert weekend. Known for their jam-band roots and dynamic live shows, the platinum-selling group has kept crowds singing with songs like *Run-Around* and *Hook*. Roaring Nights concert tickets include live music plus free parking, unlimited Carousel and Ferris Wheel rides and zoo admission.

Roaring Nights Featuring Nelly on July 25

Nelly heats up the stage and closes out the Roaring Nights concerts with era-defining hits like *Hot in Herre*, *Ride with Me* and *Dilemma*. The Grammy Award-winning superstar brings chart-topping swagger and crowd-hyping energy that helped shape 2000s hip-hop and continues to ignite audiences today. Roaring Nights concert tickets include Nelly's can't-miss performance plus free parking, unlimited Carousel and Ferris Wheel rides and zoo admission.

Zoo Uncorked on Aug. 22

This after-hours event for guests ages 21 and over returns for its second summer, offering elevated flights and bites paired with Zoo Chat and live music throughout the evening. From 4-8 p.m., guests will receive a passport to explore the zoo and try a variety of animal-themed cocktails and mocktails in a vibrant nighttime atmosphere. Event tickets are required in advance and include free parking, unlimited Carousel and Ferris Wheel rides, live entertainment and more.

More Fun to See and Do at the Zoo!

Brookfield Zoo Chicago is a summer bucket-list destination for tourists visiting the Chicagoland area or locals looking for a staycation. Guests planning summer activities in the area can find event schedules, ticket information, animal updates and more by visiting and following Brookfield Zoo Chicago on social media.

Brookfield Zoo Chicago Goes Jurassic with Dinos! Summer Experience

From Fossil Digs to Raptor Encounters, Dinos! Brings Prehistoric Fun to the Zoo



Dinosaurs are taking over Brookfield Zoo Chicago this summer with Dinos!, a summer adventure featuring more than 20 animatronic dinosaurs, hands-on activities, photo opportunities, themed food and merchandise, and live programs for guests of all ages.

This seasonal experience runs through Oct. 25. It is free with zoo admission and membership.

Dinos! invites guests to explore a trail filled with realistic dinosaurs, from a 65-foot-long Brachiosaurus and 40-foot Tyrannosaurus Rex to armored Ankylosaurus, speedy raptors, duck-billed dinosaurs, nests with hatchlings and more brought to life in collaboration with Dino Don, Inc.

“We can’t wait for guests of all ages to experience Dinos!, as this Jurassic journey sparks awe and curiosity with every generation,” said John Buranosky, vice president of Guest and Member Services at Brookfield Zoo Chicago. “Guests will be able to get close to dinosaurs they have only read about or seen on screen, while also learning about extinction, dinosaur connections to animals alive today and simple ways we can help protect wildlife.”

As guests explore Dinos!, guests can walk through a dinosaur ribcage tunnel, dig for fossils, climb inside a giant dinosaur egg for a photo, compare their feet to a dinosaur footprint, meet a realistic raptor and look for baby dinosaur puppet appearances. Visitors can also stop by a dino-themed photo booth and collect dinosaur trading cards.

Along the way, they will also discover connections between prehistoric life and wildlife today, including how fossils help scientists understand the past, how birds are linked to dinosaurs and why protecting endangered species matters for the future. On select dates, guests can visit the Dino Fossil Lab near the dinosaur ribcage tunnel to learn about animal adaptations and convergent evolution while comparing 3D-printed replica dinosaur skulls to those of animals at the zoo.

Those who want even more dinosaur fun can also try the Dinosaur Discovery Walking Tour or Ultimate T. Rex Virtual Reality (VR) Experience for an additional fee. The Dinosaur Discovery Tour offers an in-depth, guided look at the Dinos! experience at 10 a.m. on select days. The VR experience will be offered daily during the summer (weather permitting) for \$8 for the public and \$6 for members. Families can also catch Dinosaur Ranger Academy programs, offering free interactive shows at the Nature Stage on select weekend dates throughout the summer.

The zoo will also host another dinosaur-themed event this summer:

- Dinos After Dark on July 11 gives guests the chance to experience Dinos! after hours with themed entertainment, special programming, Zoo Chats and more.

The fun continues all summer long throughout the zoo with dinosaur-themed food, beverages, merchandise, limited edition dinosaur Mold-A-Ramas and birthday party experiences. A new Dino Dawg food truck will be available near the zoo’s East Mall, serving up a special menu with corn dogs and dinosaur-themed treats. Guests can plan their prehistoric adventure at brookfieldzoo.org/events/dinos.

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

ComEd to Provide \$2.5 Million in Bill Relief to Help Small Businesses Offset Rising PJM Supply Costs

ComEd's One-Time Grants to Help this Business-Customer Segment Reduce the Burden of Rising Energy Costs

On Thursday, June 4, ComEd, together with its community partners, announced \$2.5 million in new bill assistance that will be available to help eligible business customers cope with higher PJM supply costs during the summer. Backed by Exelon, ComEd's parent company, this extension of last year's Customer Relief Fund will offer a one-time, matching grant of up to \$500 to eligible small- and medium-sized business customers located within ComEd's northern Illinois service territory.

Grant applications will only be accepted online at ComEd.com/SMBRelief. Applications will not be accepted by phone. Small- and medium-sized business customers can visit the site now for more information.

"Increasing PJM-related energy supply costs present challenges to customers in many parts of the country, including small businesses that are a critical part of the economy in the communities ComEd serves across northern Illinois," said Gil C. Quiniones, president & CEO, ComEd. "The Customer Relief Fund is designed to deliver immediate billing relief to thousands of ComEd's small-business customers, ensuring they're able to continue providing jobs to local residents, while contributing to the cultural vibrancy of our region."

ComEd announced the fund in collaboration with Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago, an organization that will administer the fund. To qualify for grants, a business's energy use must be under 500 kilowatts, have an active ComEd account with a commercial meter (home-based businesses are ineligible) and a past-due balance, along with no unpaid tampering fees and no bankruptcy.

"Thriving small businesses are essential to building strong, resilient communities. This innovative partnership with ComEd will deliver meaningful, direct assistance to entrepreneurs and neighborhood-serving businesses in communities that need it most," said Anthony E. Simpkins, President and CEO of Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago. We are honored to help ensure that local business owners have access to resources that reduce financial stress and enable them to continue serving as anchors of economic opportunity for the residents and neighborhoods that depend on them."

For more information, visit ComEd.com/SMBRelief.



ComEd Energy Efficiency Program Receives National Recognition from Energy Coalition

Alliance to Save Energy Presents ComEd with Stars of Energy Efficiency Award for Efforts that Help Low-Income Customers Achieve Nearly \$63 Million in Lifetime Bill Savings

ComEd's Energy Efficiency Program won the Stars of Energy Efficiency Award in the Power & Utilities category from the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE). The award highlights ComEd's efforts to lower energy costs for customers facing high energy burdens. ASE announced the recognition at its 33rd annual gala on May 6 in Washington, D.C., where five finalists competed in the Power & Utilities category.

Last year, the ComEd EE Program – which offers a variety of services and incentives to help customers manage energy use, lower costs and protect the environment – achieved its most impactful year to date. It offered energy efficiency solutions to low-income customers and communities focused on environmental justice throughout northern Illinois – showing that an equity-driven utility portfolio can significantly enhance affordability and deliver widespread energy savings.

In 2025, ComEd delivered \$95 million in incentives to income-eligible customers – about one-third of total incentives for that year. Incentives help defray the costs of energy-efficiency improvements. These efforts resulted in an estimated \$62.9 million in lifetime bill savings for participating households by lowering energy use, improving heating and cooling performance, and replacing inefficient appliances. Some programs offer no-cost delivery, which eliminates up-front expenses to help customers further reduce monthly bills.

"We are grateful to be recognized by an organization that is a leading international authority on energy efficiency," said Gil Quiniones, president & CEO at ComEd. "ComEd boasts one of the nation's largest EE programs and for years we have been helping customers reduce consumption and costs. Since we launched the EE program in 2008, we saved customers enough electricity to power 12 million ComEd homes for one year, while taking over \$13 billion off our customers' bills and avoiding 77 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere."

These environmental savings are the equivalent of planting 38 million acres of trees or removing nearly 9 million cars from the road for one year.

"There has never been a more important time to embrace energy efficiency," Alliance president Paula Glover said. "With the United States set to shatter records for electricity demand this and next year, and energy being increasingly unaffordable for millions of Americans, it's time to get serious about saving energy and embrace efficiency as the fastest, lowest cost way to address what is now an energy crisis."

ASE's award is the latest recognition for the ComEd EE Program. In 2024, ComEd received the ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year – Sustained Excellence Award, the highest honor from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for the 12th year in a row. This award is given to select organizations chosen from thousands of ENERGY STAR partners, honoring those whose programs show measurable energy savings and help mitigate climate change.

Company Efforts to Maintain Lowest Possible Energy Bills

The ComEd Energy Efficiency Program is one of several options that the energy company offers 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.

ComEd's energy efficiency programs reflect the energy company's dedication to The Exelon Promise. This customer-focused strategy from parent company Exelon aims to provide quick relief, strong protections and lasting solutions to rising energy costs. This includes:

- The January launch of the Low-Income Discount (LID) Program, which offers qualifying income-eligible ComEd customers percentage-based discounts on their electric bills based on income level up to 300% of the federal poverty level. These discounts are intended to reduce energy costs to 3-6% of total household income.
- The January launch of ComEd's Delivery Time-of-Day Pricing Rate, which helps households save money by shifting energy use to times when electricity prices are lower and demand is reduced.
- Last year's launch of 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 launched in collaboration with its parent company, Exelon.
- Ongoing 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 residential customers can find energy efficiency services, incentives and rebates at ComEd.com/HomeSavings, while business offerings are listed at ComEd.com/BizSavings.

To help customers sort through the full range of energy-efficiency and bill-assistance programs, ComEd offers its Smart Assistance Manager at ComEd.com/SAM. This online resource asks customers a few questions, then sorts through all the options ComEd has available to recommend personalized options. SAM will also provide links for more information and to apply.

ComEd Renewable Energy Investments Help Expand Customer Access to Clean Energy and Lower Costs

\$10 Billion in Renewable Energy Credits Expands Access to Wind and Solar, Supports Customer Savings and Reduces Emissions Across Northern Illinois

ComEd has exceeded \$10 billion in Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) under contract at the end of 2025 – an investment that is helping expand access to clean energy, support lower energy costs over time and deliver environmental benefits for customers across northern Illinois. The milestone is equivalent to 383 million megawatt-hours of new renewable energy produced in Illinois. Distributed energy resources (DER) like rooftop solar have reached 1.7 gigawatts (GW) on ComEd's grid, which is enough to power 306,000 homes for a year.

Growth accelerated in 2025 with approximately 105 million additional RECs added under contract last year, making it one of the most significant single-year expansions of renewable energy support in Illinois history. RECs represent the environmental attributes of electricity generated from renewable energy and the \$10 billion milestone reflects the cumulative value of ComEd's active REC contracts, which it pays out to renewable energy developers over terms of up to 20 years. These long-term commitments provide financial certainty for developers while helping bring more affordable renewable energy options to customers across northern Illinois.

“The \$10 billion REC contract milestone reflects the scale and durability of Illinois' clean energy policies and the important role RECs play in bringing new renewable generation online,” said Andrew Plenge, vice president of Strategy & Energy Policy at ComEd. “Administering these long-term contracts helps ensure that renewable projects can be financed and built, expanding access to renewable energy and its benefits for the communities we serve.”

ComEd's 1.7 GWs of DER is up from 1 GW in 2024, across more than 2,000 commercial and nearly 80,000 residential rooftop solar systems. Additionally, more than 270 community solar projects are interconnected to ComEd's grid with more than 480 under construction. Community solar offers all ComEd customers access to clean and renewable solar energy and opportunities to reduce their monthly electricity bills without installing solar panels of their own.

Clean energy generation helps reduce emissions, support economic development and expand access to renewable energy benefits across the state. In Illinois, electric utilities purchase and retire RECs to comply with the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard, which sets goals for utilities to obtain a percentage of their electricity from renewable energy sources. The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), passed in 2021, sets Illinois on a path to 100% clean energy by 2050 with 40% of energy coming from renewables by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

RECS are awarded through processes conducted by the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) and approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). ComEd administers the REC contracts, including managing payments to approved vendors on behalf of customers.

ComEd's multi-year Grid Plan, submitted to the ICC in January, supports the clean energy transition by aligning investments to enable additional residential and commercial solar projects, battery storage, high-efficiency heat pumps and other emerging technologies. These investments will support a modern, multi-directional grid capable of managing the increasing flow of power to and from a growing number of distributed energy resources.

Loyola Medicine Physicians Named Castle Connolly Top Doctors

Loyola Medicine announced that more than 110 of its physicians have been recognized as Castle Connolly Top Doctors for 2026, a prestigious national distinction honoring physicians for clinical excellence, professional leadership and dedication to patient-centered care. Castle Connolly Top Doctors represent the top 7% of all U.S. practicing physicians.



www.loyolamedicine.org

Castle Connolly Top Doctors are selected through a rigorous peer nomination process followed by extensive physician-led research. The designation recognizes doctors who demonstrate exceptional skill, outcomes and commitment within their specialties, placing them among the top physicians in the United States.

“Being named a Castle Connolly Top Doctor is a testament to the clinical excellence and compassion our physicians bring to every patient encounter,” said Chris M. Gonzalez, MD, MBA, FACS, chief clinical officer, Trinity Health Illinois/Indiana Region. “This recognition reflects Loyola Medicine’s unwavering commitment to advancing care through expertise, innovation and a deep respect for the people and communities we serve.”

Loyola Medicine physicians named Castle Connolly Top Doctors include:

<p>Cardiovascular Disease Alain L. Heroux, MD Gregory P. Macaluso, MD Mark Rabbat, MD Mushabbar Syed, MD</p> <p>Colon & Rectal Surgery Joshua M. Eberhardt, MD Marc A. Singer, MD</p> <p>Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism Gerald A. Charnogursky, MD Pauline M. Camacho, MD</p> <p>Family Medicine Amy Blair, MD Mithila Janakiram, MD</p> <p>Gastroenterology Joseph M. Bresnahan, MD Scott J. Cotler, MD</p> <p>Gynecologic Oncology Ronald K. Potkul, MD</p> <p>Hand Surgery Alexander Soneru, MD Michael S. Bednar, MD Sonya P. Agnew, MD</p> <p>Hematology Patrick Joseph Stiff, MD</p> <p>Infectious Disease Gail E. Reid, MD Nina M. Clark, MD</p> <p>Internal Medicine Brian Ing, MD Gregory J. Ozark, MD Joshua David Evans, MD Keith E. Veselik, MD Maureen P. Fearon, MD Michael Stokas, MD Sarah Josephine Lagedrost, MD</p> <p>Interventional Cardiology Donald J. Tanis, MD John J. Lopez, MD Lowell H. Steen, MD</p>	<p>Medical Oncology Joseph I. Clark, MD Kathy S. Albain, MD</p> <p>Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Jonathan Muraskas, MD Marc G. Weiss, MD</p> <p>Nephrology David J. Leehey, MD Karen A. Griffin, MD Kavitha Vellanki, MD</p> <p>Neurological Surgery Min S. Park, MD Vikram Prabhu, MD</p> <p>Neurology John R. Wilson, MD Jose Biller, MD Michael J. Schneck, MD</p> <p>Obstetrics & Gynecology Paula White-Prock, MD Scott Graziano, MD</p> <p>Ophthalmology Brad G. Anstadt, MD Brian P. Larsen, MD Charles S. Bouchard, MD Felipe De Alba, MD James F. McDonnell, MD Robert B. Pearlman, MD Ronald S. Weiss, MD Saba Quraishi, MD Wendewessen Amde, MD</p> <p>Orthopaedic Surgery Adam Schiff, MD Dane Salazar, MD Douglas Evans, MD Erling Ho, MD Harold Rees, MD Jeffrey S. Meisles, MD Mary K. Mulcahey, MD Nicholas Brown, MD Nickolas Garbis, MD Pietro M. Tonino, MD</p>	<p>Otolaryngology Daniel M. Kurtzman, MD Dennis M. Moore, MD James Stankiewicz, MD John P. Leonetti, MD Richard W. Borrowdale, MD Steven Charous, MD</p> <p>Pathology Robert Pooley, MD, Pathology</p> <p>Pediatric Allergy & Immunology Joyce Rabbat, MD</p> <p>Pediatric Endocrinology Sanjay Bansal, MD Shivani P. Shah, MD</p> <p>Pediatrics Nabil M. Saleh, MD Oscar R. Linares, MD Sean M. Diamond, MD</p> <p>Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Prempreet Bajaj, DO</p> <p>Plastic Surgery Darl Vandevender, MD Eleanor I. Bucholz, MD Victor G. Cimino, MD</p> <p>Podiatry Katherine Elizabeth Dux, DPM</p> <p>Psychiatry David Schilling, MD</p> <p>Pulmonary Disease Emily S. Clausen, MD Harvey J. Friedman, MD Kevin P. Simpson, MD Nidhi S. Undevia, MD Stephen R. Amesbury, MD</p> <p>Radiation Oncology William Small, MD</p> <p>Rheumatology Judith E. Frank, MD Lynn Meisles, MD Rodney Tehrani, MD</p>	<p>Sports Medicine Aaron Lee, DO Eliza Pierko, MD Nathaniel S. Jones, MD Stacey Bennis, MD</p> <p>Surgery Adam S. Kabaker, MD Fred A. Luchette, MD Luis A. Fernandez, MD Michael Anstadt, MD Steven A. De Jong, MD</p> <p>Surgical Oncology Gerard J. Abood, MD</p> <p>Thoracic & Cardiac Surgery Bryan K. Foy, MD Edwin McGee, MD Jeffrey P. Schwartz, MD Rudolph Altergott, MD</p> <p>Urogynecology and Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery Denise Furlong, MD Thythy T. Pham, MD</p> <p>Urology Eric J. Kirshenbaum, MD Gopal N. Gupta, MD Kevin T. McVary, MD Laurie Bachrach, MD Marcus L. Quek, MD Robert C. Flanigan, MD Thomas Turk, MD</p> <p>Vascular & Interventional Radiology Marc A. Borge, MD</p> <p>Vascular Surgery Bernadette Aulivola, MD</p>
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These recognitions highlight the depth and breadth of expertise across Loyola Medicine and reinforces its reputation for excellence in academic medicine, specialty care and complex treatment.

For more information about Loyola Medicine and its nationally recognized physicians, visit LoyolaMedicine.org.

Nicor Gas Opens Applications for Community and Culture Grants

Nicor Gas announces \$100,000 in funding to support community and culture programs. The funding expands the company's commitment to supporting cultural and community organizations that create engagement in the arts and that help individuals from all backgrounds thrive and reach their full potential.

Qualifying 501(c)(3) organizations may apply for these community and culture pillar grants from Nicor Gas to support their initiatives. Applications are open now and close on June 30, with funding decisions by Aug. 31. Selected nonprofits and community organizations will be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in grant funds this year.



"At Nicor Gas, we're proud to invest in the creativity that makes our communities vibrant. Through our community and culture grants, we're helping organizations expand access to the arts, boost local talent and create opportunities for everyone to thrive," said Jackie Nagel, manager of Community Engagement at Nicor Gas.

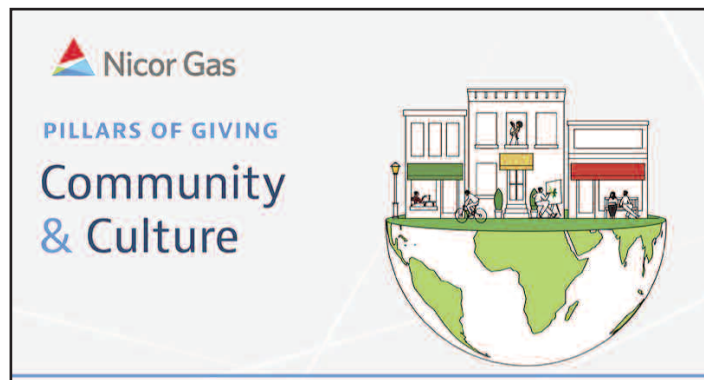
As the largest natural gas provider in Illinois, Nicor Gas is committed to supporting community and culture programming. Last year, the company awarded \$100,000 in community and culture grants to 22 organizations. Grants included:

- One Mind Inc. – Supported a youth leadership and cultural engagement program including public speaking, arts education and community service.
- Freeport Art Museum – Supported a collaborative partnership integrating high-quality, hands-on art activities into established after-school programs.

To apply for a community and culture 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/news/community.



Nicor Gas' Community Impact Report Highlights Volunteerism and More Than \$6M in Donations Made to 336 Illinois Nonprofits

Company Exceeds Corporate Responsibility Goals Through Record Community Giving

Nicor Gas' 2025 Community Impact Report showcases the company's ongoing dedication to strengthening communities across northern Illinois. In 2025, Nicor Gas and its foundations contributed more than \$6 million to support community welfare and development through charitable giving and volunteerism. These efforts continue to focus on three strategic initiatives: supporting basic needs, protecting the environment and enabling economic opportunity.

"As we release the 2025 Community Impact Report, I am inspired by the dedication of our employees, partners and neighbors who make our shared progress possible. This publication highlights that work in action. It reflects how Nicor Gas delivers fuel for life – not only by providing the energy people depend on, but by helping bring stability, support and possibility to communities across northern Illinois. It is a privilege to lead an organization so deeply committed to service and we are proud of the collective impact reflected in these pages," said Wendell Dallas, president and CEO of Nicor Gas.

Nicor Gas has continued to make meaningful impact through charitable giving and community partnerships:

- Support Basic Needs – Access to clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy is fundamental. Nicor Gas and its foundations extend that commitment by addressing other essential needs through partnerships with organizations, such as River Bend Food Bank and Hessed House. These collaborations have helped deliver 22.5 million meals and provide 646,000 nights of shelter to those in need since 2021. In total, Nicor Gas and its foundations supported 381,000 families, exceeding its goal of 250,000 and continued to strengthen communities across northern Illinois.
- Protect the Environment – Nicor Gas and its foundations aim to advance its environmental stewardship goals by working to preserve 10,000 acres of open space across northern Illinois. To date, the company has supported the protection of 11,100 acres of natural areas, reinforcing its commitment to conservation and habitat restoration. Support for organizations, such as Ecology Action Center and Morton Arboretum, helps expand access to cultural, educational and recreational resources. Since 2021, Nicor Gas partners have installed 16,500 pollinator plants and planted 12,000 trees, further enhancing biodiversity and sustainability across the region.
- Enable Economic Opportunity – Through partnerships with organizations, such as the Illinois Science and Technology Institute and Museum of Science and Industry, the company helps advance equitable economic growth, supports entrepreneurship and promotes long-term development. Since 2021, Nicor Gas and its foundations have infused \$7.76 million into communities, surpassing its \$5 million goal and demonstrating its dedication to driving meaningful impact and inclusive prosperity across the state.

To learn more and explore stories of impact, visit nicorgas.com/2025impact to read the full 2025 Community Impact Report and highlights from our non-profit partners.



To learn more about Nicor Gas, visit www.nicorgas.com.

Ticks and Mosquitoes and Bats, Oh My!

An Update from the Illinois Department of Public Health

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is reminding Illinoisans that warmer weather means an increased potential for exposure to several illnesses that can be carried by animals or biting pests. While enjoying outdoor activities, people should take appropriate precautions to reduce their risk of contracting serious illness.

“Spring and summer provide so many opportunities for outdoor fun all across Illinois,” said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. “It is important to remember that some common biting pests and animals may be carrying disease that can cause serious human illnesses. Illinois residents should take precautions like wearing bug repellent and vaccinating their pets against rabies, among other measures, to keep themselves and their communities healthy and safe.”

There are three main categories of concern this time of year.

• **Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus** – Each year, IDPH and local health departments test mosquito samples for the presence of West Nile virus. The first positive mosquito batches for 2026 were recently found in Cook County. In 2025 there were 150 total human cases and 10 fatalities across Illinois.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a *Culex* mosquito, commonly called a house mosquito, that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Common symptoms include fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. Most people infected with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms, however, in rare cases it can lead to severe illness, including paralysis, meningitis or encephalitis (i.e., brain and nerve infections) or even death. People older than 60 and those with weakened immune systems are at highest risk for severe illness.

IDPH urges the public to Fight the Bite by practicing the three “R’s” – reduce, repel and report.

• **REDUCE** – Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut. Eliminate, or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires and any other containers.

• **REPEL** – When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt and apply an EPA-registered insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR 3535, para-menthane-diol (PMD) or 2-undecanone according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.

• **REPORT** – Report locations where you see water sitting stagnant for more than a week, such as roadside ditches, flooded yards and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes. The local health department or city government may be able to add larvicide to the water to remove mosquito larvae. You can learn more on the IDPH website at West Nile Virus (WNV).

• **Tickborne Illness** – Ticks can spread a number of potentially serious illnesses, including Lyme disease, spotted fever group rickettsiosis, ehrlichiosis and others. Last year, the first confirmed case of Powassan virus, a potentially deadly illness, was diagnosed in an Illinois resident, although it is unclear if the case was contracted within the state.

The best protective measure against tickborne illness is preventing tick bites, no matter what state you are in. IDPH has created an interactive Tickborne Disease Dashboard that documents the counties in Illinois where different tick species have been confirmed, as well as the diseases they may carry.

Additional tips for how to avoid tickborne illnesses include – Walk in the center of trails; Avoid wooded, bushy areas with high grass and leaf litter; Wear light-colored clothing to make ticks easier to find; Tuck long pants into socks and boots; Apply an EPA-registered insect repellent containing 20% DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus according to label directions; Conduct full-body tick checks on family members (underarms, ears, belly button, behind knees, between legs, waist, hair and scalp) every two to three hours; Check any gear or pets taken on outings. Talk to your veterinarian about how to best protect your pet from ticks; To kill ticks after being outdoors, put clothes in the dryer on high for 10 minutes (or one hour for damp clothes); Bathe or shower within two hours after coming indoors.

Many tickborne diseases can have similar signs and symptoms. If you get a tick bite and develop fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, fatigue or rash, within a few weeks, see your health care provider.

It is often helpful to keep the tick for species identification. Place the tick in rubbing alcohol or in a sealed bag/container to bring to your health care provider or local health department for submission to IDPH for species identification. A submission form can be found on the IDPH website.

More information is available on the IDPH website at Tickborne Illnesses.

• **Rabies in Bats** – IDPH also tracks cases of rabies in animals. The disease is most commonly found in bats.

The greatest risk of exposure comes from bats that make their way into people’s homes. The IDPH website has information on steps you can take to keep bats out of your home at Bats and Bat Exclusion. If a bat is found inside a home, try and cover it with a container and contact animal control so it can be tested for rabies.

Illinois residents should also make sure that rabies vaccinations are up to date for pets and any valuable livestock and horses for which a rabies vaccine is available. If a pet is exposed to a high-risk wild animal – such as a bat, skunk, raccoons, fox or coyote – pet owners should immediately contact a veterinarian for advice.

People can get rabies after being bitten by an infected animal or when saliva from a rabid animal gets directly into a person’s eyes, nose, mouth or a wound. Bats have very small teeth making their bite marks hard to see. If you find yourself in close proximity to a bat, do not kill or release the bat before calling your local health department to help determine if you could have been exposed to rabies and need preventive treatment. If the bat is available for testing and test results are negative, preventive treatment is not needed. People may also need rabies preventive treatment after bites from untested skunks, raccoons, fox or coyotes.

If you have been bitten by any animal, seek immediate medical attention. Bite wounds can become infected and if the animal is high risk for rabies, preventive treatment must begin quickly.

For more information, visit the IDPH website at <https://dph.illinois.gov/>.

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



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

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- **Administrative Hearings Officer**

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Vision Screening

- **Disability Placards**

Temporary First Time Issuance
Temporary Replacement

- **Drivers License**

Duplicate/Corrected
First Time Issuance
Instruction Permit Duplicate/Corrected
Instruction Permit First Time Issuance
Instruction Permit Renewal
Motorcycle Road Test
Motorcycle Written Test
Non-Visa Temporary Visitors (TVDL)
Renewal
Road Test
REAL ID
Vision Screening

- **Drivers License**

Written Test

- **License Plates**

Renewal Stickers
Sticker Replacement

- **Non Sufficient Funds**

- **Non-CDL Road Test**

- **Non-CDL Written Test**

- **Organ Donor Registry**

- **Reinstatement Fees**

Discretionary Suspension (Traffic related)
Failure to Appear Suspension
Parking Suspension
Tollway/Automated Traffic Suspension

- **State ID**

Duplicate/Corrected
First Time Issuance
Renewal
REAL ID

- **Vehicle**

Registration Renewal
Sticker Replacement
Seven-Day Drive Away Permits
Titles

- **Voter Registration Applications**

**The Illinois
Secretary of State Office
is located at**

**1903 N. Mannheim Rd.
Melrose Park.**

**For more information,
visit www.ilsos.gov.**

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

Alexi Giannoulas
Secretary of State



Obituaries

Jacinto

Maria Leon Jacinto. It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Maria Leon Jacinto, who passed away on May 27, 2026, at age 92. She will be remembered for the deep love she had for her family. Her life was defined by hard work and devotion to those she cared for. And many memories she created and shared.

Maria was born on July 18, 1933, in San Jose de la Paz, Jalisco, Mexico, and lived a life marked by dedication to her family. She dedicated much of her working life to both Alberto-Culver and Automatic Electric, where she worked for a combined 30 years. She was known for her strong work ethic, reliability and commitment to excellence.

Maria found her greatest joy in creating a warm, beautiful world for the people she loved. She was a gifted cook who brought family together, always expressing her love through delicious, comforting meals. Outdoors and in, she possessed a true green thumb. Her garden was a vibrant, blooming reflection of her patience and nurturing soul. Above all, Maria's favorite place was to be surrounded by family. She cherished every single moment spent visiting, laughing and sharing stories with her beloved sisters, creating memories that will be held close by all that knew her.

Those left to cherish her memory include her life companion for 78 years, loving husband, Harry Jacinto; her children – Genevieve Adams, (late husband Ron), Sally Gerson (Bob) and Henry Jacinto (Patricia); and her beloved grandchildren – Alexandra Arrequin, Sunny Key, Suzanne Caruso, Amy Lovell, Michael Gerson, William Gerson and Jessica Jacinto. She also leaves behind a beautiful legacy through her great-grandchildren – Mateo, Amae, Leo, Xochi, Penelope, Emma, Harry, Jacob, Flora, Ernie and Eileen. Arrangements by Bormann Funeral Home. Burial at Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Nocita

Rosemary Anne Nocita, nee Padula, April 7, 1950-June 16, 2026, age 76, passed away suddenly on June 16, 2026. She was born on April 7, 1950, in Chicago, Illinois, where she was raised before making her home in Melrose Park and later moving to Bloomingdale to be nearer to her beloved grandchildren, who brought her so much joy.

Rosemary attended Our Lady of the Angels School and was a survivor of the tragic 1958 school fire, an experience that remained a significant part of her life story. She later worked at the *Chicago Tribune*, where she met her husband Frank. The two were married in 1969 and built a life centered on love, devotion and family.

She was a devoted stay-at-home mother while raising her children, a role she embraced with deep love and dedication. Afterward, she returned to work in the Payroll Department for the village of Melrose Park, where she remained until her retirement.

Rosemary will be remembered as a genuine, loving and compassionate woman whose warmth drew people to her instantly. She had a rare gift for making everyone feel welcome, and her home was often the heart of family gatherings and celebrations. She hosted countless holidays and worked tirelessly to make each one meaningful and memorable.

Her Catholic faith was the foundation of her life. Rosemary prayed the rosary daily, and faithfully attended and participated in the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Annual Feast and novena for more than 50 years. She was also devoted to the Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo/Scalabrini Nuns. Her faith was so central to who she was that one of her closest and most treasured friend-

ships of more than 40 years was with Fr. Vince Gennardo.

Along with her deep love for God, she enjoyed shopping at Von Maur and occasionally trying her luck at the slot machines, a pastime that brought her joy.

Rosemary was the devoted wife of Frank Nocita; the loving mother of Frank (Marisa) Nocita and the late Gina Nocita; and the cherished grandmother of Gina Rose and Massimo, who were the light of her life and a blessing for which she was endlessly grateful.

She was the beloved sister of Gene Anne (Mike) Klugger, Joseph (Tammy) Padula and Lisa (Andy) DiPietro, and a loving aunt to many nieces and nephews who truly loved and adored her.

She was also a cherished sister-in-law to the late John (Peggy) Nocita, the late Christine (Ed) Urso, the late Bernie (Marco) DiVito, Marie (Chuck) Rinella, Phillip (Geraldyn) Nocita, Jacelyn Ferrera and the late Carolyn Capone.

Rosemary was preceded in death by her parents, Eugene Padula and Theresa (Gilbert) Beard, as well as her beloved daughter, Gina Nocita. She leaves behind a legacy of faith, love, generosity and unwavering devotion to those she held dear. Although her loss leaves a profound void, there is comfort in knowing she is finally reunited with her beloved daughter, whom she never stopped missing.

Arrangements by Bucaro Funeral Home & Cremation Center. Entombment private.

Pecora

Frank Pecora, June 27, 1946-May 22, 2026. Beloved husband of Geraldine (nee Conenna); loving father of Geanine (Dan) Hunt and Jennifer (Curt) Reiner; cherished grandfather of Nicholas Hunt and Kayla Reiner; dear brother of the late George (Betty) Pecora and the late Joseph (Angel) Pecora; beloved brother-in-law to Michael and Rosemarie Grounds; fond uncle, cousin and friend of many. Proud member of the Grand and Ogden Social Club. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment Christ the King Mausoleum.

Sherman

Mavis Wisdom Sherman, Oct. 29, 1938-May 5, 2026. It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Mavis Wisdom Sherman on May 5, 2026, at 87. Mavis was a devoted wife, loving mother, cherished grandmother and great-grandmother, little sister, loving auntie May and a dear friend to many. We will always remember her kindness, strength, compassion, and the warmth she brought to everyone around her.

Mavis found great joy in family gatherings, quiet mornings and caring for those she loved. Her gentle spirit, sense of humor and thoughtful nature touched countless lives, creating memories that will be treasured forever. Morris Sherman, her loving husband, survives her along with daughters – Rosemarie, Sherline, Lorraine and Sandra; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren, two brothers, and many family members and friends who will forever cherish her memory. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Somers

Cathy J. Somers, Nov. 12, 1958-June 12, 2026, age 67. Cathy J. Somers, nee Holakovsky, passed away peacefully in her sleep on June 12, 2026, surrounded by her family. She was born to George and Josephine Holakovsky on

Nov. 12, 1958. She graduated from Oak Park and River Forest High School, and Triton College. Before marriage she worked several different jobs and then went on to serve as president of GSS Graphics & Advertising. Her favorite things to do in life were spending time and traveling with her family and her two sons. She brought a sense of joy and happiness to everyone in her life, known for her laughing, dancing and singing with those she loved.

Cathy married Glen Somers of Melrose Park at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Melrose Park on April 9, 1988. They were happily married for 38 years, raising their two sons, Glen Jr. and Robert, on Brighton Lane in La Grange. Cathy was a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend. She loved taking care of her family. Cooking was her way of showing love, her Sunday dinners and chicken soup were beloved by her family. She was a gifted gardener and loved to spend time out in her yard tending to her peppers, tomatoes and zucchini. Spending time with her sons gave her the most joy and she took every opportunity to do so.

She is survived by her beloved husband Glen Sr.; her sons, Glen Jr. (Lexee) and Robert (Zoe); and her grandson Glen III. She is additionally survived by her siblings, Mary Wolff (Frank), Karen Warchol (Ric), Tom Holakovsky (Kathy), Ron Holakovsky (Debbie) and Jim Holakovsky (Janice).

She is joined in Heaven by her parents, George and Josephine; her in-laws, Glen and Rita Somers; her brother Robert Holakovsky and his wife Mary; and her brother Richard Holakovsky.

Arrangements by Russo's Hillside Chapel. Interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Tessicini

Anna A. Tessicini, nee Cozza, June 14, 1949-June 3, 2026. Dearly beloved wife of Luciano; loving mother of Silvana (Dominic), Francesca (Harry) Karydes and Laura (Bobby) Valenti; cherished grandmother of Carlotta, Elena, Christopher, Gianna and Mila; dear sister to the late Teresa Cozza, Maria (Edward) Alfano, Franca (Joe) Aristodemo, the late Francesco Cozza, Gianna

Cozza, Lia Huertas, Silvana (Jamal) Sinno, Rosa (Joe) Carpanzano and the late Elisa Cozza; loving aunt to many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Bormann Funeral Home. Entombment Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Christ the King Mausoleum.

Zwirblis

Donald Zwirblis, April 30, 1952-April 13, 2026, Our family is saddened to announce the death of our dear brother Don Zwirblis on April 13, 2026, just shy of his 74th birthday. He was the much-loved son of Helen and Al Zwirblis, who both passed in 1981 and the much-loved husband of Diane (Phillips) Zwirblis. Diane preceded Don in death in March 2020. Don had one son, Jason Zwirblis (Madia Krnetata-Zwirblis) and a grandson, Lazar Zwirblis (age 14). They reside in Belgrade, Serbia. Don is survived by his sisters – Linda Cochran (C.B. Cochran, deceased in 2009), Joanne Emral and Mary Ellen Orrico (Nick Orrico). Don had three nephews – Clinton Cochran (Lisa Cochran), Christopher Cochran and Phillip Emral; a niece, Stacey Raia (John Raia); and great-nephews Vincent (age 11) and Dominic (age 8). Don loved his family very much and was proud of his son, grandson, nephews, niece and especially his great-nephews. Don attended St. Charles Borromeo Elementary School in Melrose Park, Illinois, Holy Cross High School in River Grove, Illinois, and studied at Triton College in River Grove, Illinois. He worked many years in the hospitality business while living in Rockford, Illinois. Don enjoyed sports – especially Da Bears and the White Sox – and played softball with the Melrose Park Lords. Don's other interests included movies, trivia, U.S. history and travel. Don loved his family, his many friends and all his dogs throughout his life.

All who knew Don will remember his kindness, gentleness, his quick wit and great sense of humor. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

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2026 Village of Melrose Park RE: 0311860 Consumer Confidence Annual Water Quality Report Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2025

This publication conforms to the new federal regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act that requires water utilities to provide a detailed water quality report to each of their customers annually. The Village of Melrose Park must provide you with this information. The Village also believes that knowledgeable customers are the Village's best allies in support of improving high drinking water standard.

If you have any questions relating to your water supply, and this report, please contact Mr. Mike Carpanzano, Water Superintendent (708-531-5360).

SPANISH NOTICE

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The report outlines the processes involved in delivering to you the highest quality drinking water available.

1. Where does my water come from?
2. How is my water treated and purified?
3. How safe is my drinking water?

SOURCE WATER (MANDATORY)

VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Lake Michigan is the surface water supply used to provide drinking water for Chicago and 123 suburban communities. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that the quality of Lake Michigan has improved dramatically over the past 21 years. Lake Michigan, by volume, is the second largest Great Lake and the only one located totally within the United States. It serves as a source of drinking water, as a place for swimming and fishing, and as a scenic wonderland. Sources of drinking water used for both tap water and bottled water can pick up contaminants as water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground. The drinking water source is vulnerable to industrial waste and runoff from surrounding lands. Potential sources of pollution such as pesticides, herbicides, radioactive materials, and organic and inorganic petroleum and gas production by-products can impact the source water. We do not have indications of the presence of these contaminants at this time, mainly because of restrictions, which prohibit industrial effluents from entering Lake Michigan, Sewage treatment plant effluents are not discharged into the lake, thereby reducing the threat of microbial contamination. All 63 miles of shoreline within Illinois are now considered to be in good condition. The Illinois EPA Office of Groundwater will be doing a source water assessment within the next three years. When completed, all sources of Pollutants into Lake Michigan will be identified and there will be information regarding the source water's susceptibility to contaminants based on the findings of the assessment. Since the quality of the raw water source is good, conventional treatment methods of disinfection, coagulation and sedimentation, and sand filtration are adequate for producing a water that is free of harmful contaminants.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by City Hall or call our water operator at 708-531-5360. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>. Source of Water: Chicago. The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. Conversely, the shore intakes are highly susceptible to storm water runoff, marinas and shoreline point sources due to the influx of ground-water to the lake.

HOW IS MY WATER TREATED AND PURIFIED?

The City of Chicago Water Department provides the water treatment necessary to safeguard the water delivered to Melrose Park. Water is taken from Lake Michigan at several water inlets located about 3 miles from shore. Chlorine is then injected into the water for disinfection. The water then flows through a series of settling and filtration basins where small amounts of polymer and sedimentation chemicals are added. After this process is complete, the water is filtered to remove the sediment. At this point the water is filtered through layers of fine charcoal and silicate sand. Small particles are removed and pure clean water is ready to be re-chlorinated as a safeguard and precaution against any microorganisms.

VOLUNTARY TESTING (OPTIONAL)

The Chicago Water Department monitors for contaminants which are proposed to be regulated or for which no standards currently exist but which could provide useful information in assessing the quality of the source water or the drinking water.

Cryptosporidium – Analyses have been conducted monthly on the source water since April 1993. Cryptosporidium has not been detected in these samples. Treatment processes have been optimized to ensure that if there are cryptosporidium cysts in the source water, they will be removed during the treatment process. By maintaining a low turbidity and thereby removing the particles from the water, the threat of cryptosporidium organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced.

Asbestos – Samples are examined for asbestos fibers in the source water and finished water on a routine basis. The EPA has determined that asbestos fibers greater than 10 microns in length could potentially cause lung cancer. We did not find fibers that are in this size category.

Taste and odor compounds – MIB and geosmin are monitored both in the source water and finished water. These analyses assist the personnel to determine the effectiveness of the treatment process as they strive to reduce these compounds and provide a drinking water without detectable tastes and odors.

The City of Chicago carefully monitors the chlorine, using just enough chlorine to protect its customers, without compromising taste. Lastly, fluoride is added to inhibit tooth decay. A corrosive inhibitor is added to protect the distribution system pipes.

The finished water is pumped into the City of Chicago supply system. The water there is pumped westerly by the city's Springfield Pumping Station through a 48"-36" supply line to the Village of Melrose Park's connection at Harlem and Wabansia.

Water is stored in the Village's 2 million gallon reservoir and again pumped by a booster station at 8300 North Avenue. The water travels through a 42" supply line to 2-4 million gallon reservoirs at the 15th Avenue pumping station and a 2 million gallon reservoir at the 23rd Avenue Main Pumping Station. At those points the water is pumped into the local water distribution lines. The Village of Melrose Park once again tests the water for chlorine levels, and adds the required chlorine to insure clean and safe water to its consumers.

SUBSTANCE EXPECTED IN DRINKING WATER

Under The Safe Drinking Water Act. S.D.W.A., the U.S.A. Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for establishing national limits for hundreds of substances in drinking water. The Act also specifies various treatments that water systems must use to remove these substances.

The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

LEAD EDUCATIONAL STATEMENT

If present, lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Village of Melrose Park is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact Mike Carpanzano at (708) 531-5360. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

IF THERE WERE A PROBLEM WITH WATER CONTAMINANT, WHO WOULD NOTIFY ME?

If contaminant levels were to exceed the M.C.L. for safe use, the Village of Melrose Park Department of Public Works will notify you with newspaper, TV and radio announcements. Also, the Village's Emergency Services/Public Safety would patrol the streets of Melrose Park instructing you of what appropriate action you can use to protect your family's health. These actions might include boiling the water for a particular period of time.

TABULAR INFORMATION

This report includes tables of contaminants found in drinking water. The tables do not list contaminants that were not found in the Chicago and Melrose Park water supply. Any contaminants detected in Melrose Park's water were under maximum contaminants levels (M.C.L.) within the safe drinking water guidelines set by U.S. EPA and are not expected to cause any health risks. However, it is important for you to know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

The Village of Melrose Park hopes this information helps make its water customers better informed on the water we use in our homes and businesses.

2025 NON-DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

The following table includes contaminants monitored for, but not detected in the most recent sample. The CCR rule does not require that this information be reported; however, monitoring had indicated that these contaminants were not present in the water supply. In some cases, if a contaminant is not detected in a water supply, monitoring can be reduced to once every three or six years, however, the Village monitors every year.

DATA TABULATED BY CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT 2025 WATER QUALITY DATA

-Definition of Terms;

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Level Found: This column represents an average of sample result data collected during the CCR calendar year. In some cases, it may represent a single sample if only one sample was collected.

Range of Detections: This column represents a range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest that were collected during the CCR calendar year.

Date of Sample: If a date appears in this column, the Illinois EPA requires monitoring for this contaminant less than once per year because the concentrations do not frequently change. If no date appears in the column, monitoring for this contaminant was conducted during the Consumer Confidence Report calendar year.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which water systems must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Nd: Not detectable at testing limits. **n/a:** not applicable

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant (unit of measurement) Typical Source of Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Date of Sample
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TURBIDITY DATA

Turbidity (%<0.3 NTU) Soil runoff. Lowest monthly percent meeting limit.	N/a	TT(Limit 95% 0.3NTU)	Lowest Monthly %	100%-100%		
Turbidity (NTU) Soil runoff. Highest single measurement.	N/a	TT(Limit 1NTU)	0.29	N/a		

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Arsenic (ppb) Natural erosion of rock and mineral deposits, particularly in groundwater. It is also released through human activities such as pesticide application, mining, smelting, and wood preservatives.	0	10	0.54	ND-0.54		
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Barium (ppm) Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.	2	2	0.0191	0.0182-0.0191		
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Nitrate (As Nitrogen) (ppm) Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	10	10	0.36	0.32-0.36		
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Total Nitrate & Nitrite (ppm) Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	10	10	0.36	0.32-0.36		
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TOC (Total Organic Carbon) The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA.						
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UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Sulfate (ppm) Erosion of naturally occurring deposits	n/a	n/a	27.2	26.8-27.2		
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Sodium (ppm) Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener.	N/a	n/a	9.10	8.67-9.10		
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STATE REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.75	0.65-0.75
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Water additive which promotes strong teeth.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

Combined Radium (226/228) (pCi/l)	0	5	0.95	0.83-0.95	2/4/2020
Decay of natural and man-made deposits					
GROSS ALPHA excluding radon	0	15	3.1	2.8-3.1	2/4/2020
and uranium Decay of natural and man-made deposits					

UNIT OF MEASUREMENT

ppm - Parts per million, or milligrams per liter ppb - Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in drinking water
 %<0.5 NTU – Percent samples less than 0.5 NTU
 pCi/l – Picocuries per liter, used to measure radioactivity.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE FOOTNOTES

Turbidity
 Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system and disinfectants.

Unregulated Contaminants:
 A maximum contaminant level (MCL) for this contaminant has not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language. The purpose for monitoring this contaminant is to assist USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water, and whether future regulation is warranted.

Fluoride
 Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride range of 0.9 mg/l to 1.2 mg/l.

Sodium
 There is not a state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician about this level of sodium in the water.

2025 VIOLATION SUMMARY TABLE FOR CHICAGO

Contaminant or Program	Violation Type	Monitoring Period Start Date-End Date	Violation Explanation
None	None	None	None
Health Effects (if Applicable)	None	None	None
Actions we took:	None		

WHAT'S IN MY WATER?

Each year, the Village analyzes hundreds of water samples for bacteria, turbidity, inorganic contaminants, lead and copper, nitrate, volatile organic contaminants, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic contaminants. For your information, we have compiled a list in the table below showing what substances were detected in our drinking water.

VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK

Lead & Copper – Lead and copper samples were collected from 30 area homes. None were found to exceed the Action Level. The 90th percentile values are shown.

Regulated Contaminants Detected in 2025 (Collected in 2025.)

Lead and Copper		Date Sampled: 2025				
Lead MCLG	Lead Action	Lead 90th Percentile	# Sites Over Lead AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
0 ppb	15 ppb	6.76	1	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems: Erosion of natural deposits
Copper MCLG	Copper Action	Copper 90th Percentile	# Sites Over Copper AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
1.3	1.3	0.0636	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems: Erosion of natural deposits

Copper Range: 0-0.277 ppb Lead Range: 0.19.4 ppb
 To obtain a copy of the system's lead tap sampling data and the service line material, please call Mike Carpanzano at (708) 531-5360.

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
mg/l: milligrams per litre or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
ug/l: micrograms per litre or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
Na: not applicable.
Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDLG): The level of disinfectant to drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminants
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	17	11.4-19	No goal for the total	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	2025	36	21.9-39	No goal for the total	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	2025	1.1	1.1-1.2	MRDLG=4	MDRL=4	ppm	No	Water additive used to control microbes

*MCL Statement: The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TTHM and HAA5 is 80 ppm and 60 ppm respectively and is currently only applicable to surface water supplies that serve 10,000 or more people. These MCLs will become effective 01/01/2005 for all groundwater supplies and surface supplies serving less than 10,000 people. Until 01/01/2005, surface water supplies serving less than 10,000 people, any size water supply that purchase from a surface water source, and groundwater supplies serving more than 10,000 people must meet a state imposed TTHM MCL of 100 ppm. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years experience problems with their livers, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer.

2025 VIOLATION SUMMARY TABLE FOR MELOSE PARK

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
None	None	None	None

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but can also save you money by reducing your water and sewer bills. Here are a few suggestions.

Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc. • Replace old fixtures, install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry. • Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers. • Do not let water run while shaving or brushing teeth. • Soak dishes before washing. • Run the dishwasher only when full.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening. • Use mulch around plants and shrubs. • Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles. • Use water from a bucket to wash your car and save the hose for rinsing.

Special Notice for Availability of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Data

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for Melrose Park

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Michael Carpanzano at 708-531-5360 or mail your request to Village of Melrose Park c/o Michael Carpanzano 1000 North 25th Avenue, Melrose Park, IL. 60160

This notice is being sent to you by Melrose Park Water Department. State Water System ID#: 0311860.

Date distributed: June 25, 2026.

For questions or concerns regarding this report, please call the Melrose Park Village Hall at (708) 343-4000.



Winston Plaza Hosts Free Open Air Cinema Nights

Join us for our summer movie nights at Winston Plaza on the first Wednesday of every month! Our next event starts on Wednesday, July 1. Gates open at 6 p.m., and the movie starts at 7 p.m. on our giant LED screen.

Schedule for the Summer

- Wednesday, July 1 – *ET*.
- Wednesday, Aug. 5 – *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie*.
- Wednesday, Sept. 2 – TBD.

No seating will be provided, so feel free to bring your own blankets and lawn chairs. Enjoy the show from your car, next to your vehicle, or anywhere in the viewing area in front of the screen.

See You Soon at Winston Plaza!

Visit <https://winston-plaza.com/events/> for more information and to RSVP.



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Mary Ann Paolantonio

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Sonny Nicotera, Mary Ramirez Taconi, Anthony "Tony" Williams

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Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BOARD MEETINGS

Fourth Monday of each month (unless otherwise indicated)
6 p.m., 1 N. Broadway

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