

A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

Get it on your calendar ... The Taste of Melrose Park kicks off Sept. 4!

Dear Neighbors,

This upcoming Labor Day weekend, we will celebrate the 44th Taste of Melrose Park. What started as a food festival featuring residents offering patrons samples of their homemade recipes has blossomed into a three-day, family-affordable event attended by over 100,000 people.

Food festivals became a cherished tradition during the 20th century, reflecting the cultures, communities and changing lifestyles of people around the world. What began as small local celebrations grew into major events that attracted thousands – and sometimes millions – of visitors each year.

In the early 1900s, most food festivals were closely tied to the harvest season. Farming communities celebrated successful crops with feasts featuring fresh fruits, vegetables, grains and livestock. These gatherings gave neighbors an opportunity to enjoy the bounty of the land while strengthening community ties through music, dancing and friendly competition.

As immigration reshaped countries like the United States, food festivals took on a new role. Ethnic communities celebrated their heritage by sharing traditional recipes and family customs. Italian festivals featured homemade pasta, pizza, sausage and cannoli. Irish celebrations highlighted corned beef, soda bread and hearty stews. German festivals served bratwurst, pretzels and pastries, while Greek, Polish, Mexican and many other cultural groups introduced their favorite dishes to new audiences.

After World War II, food festivals experienced tremendous growth. Increased prosperity, better transportation and expanding suburbs made it easier for families to attend community events. Festivals became important fundraisers for churches, civic organizations and nonprofit groups. Volunteers prepared homemade foods, local musicians provided entertainment, and children enjoyed carnival rides and games.

By the 1960s and 1970s, food festivals had become annual traditions in towns and cities across America. Communities began celebrating local specialties such as sweet corn, strawberries, apples, seafood, barbecue, chili, garlic and cheese.

The 1980s and 1990s ushered in a new era of food festivals. Larger crowds, corporate sponsorships and media coverage transformed many local events into regional tourist destinations. Festivals expanded to include live concerts, arts and crafts, wine tastings and cooking demonstrations. Professional chefs joined home cooks in showcasing culinary creativity, while local restaurants used festivals to introduce new dishes and attract customers.

Beyond great food, these festivals serve an important purpose. They preserve cultural traditions, promote local businesses, boost tourism and create lasting memories for generations of families. Grandparents introduced grandchildren to recipes passed down through generations, while visitors discovered flavors and traditions from cultures different from their own.

By the close of the 20th century, food festivals had evolved into celebrations of diversity and community. Whether held in a small rural town or a major metropolitan city, they reminded people that sharing a meal is one of the most meaningful ways to bring communities together.

Today, many of the world's most successful food festivals trace their roots to traditions established in the 20th century – celebrating not only great food but also the people, cultures and stories behind every dish.

Sincerely,


Mayor Ron Serpico



Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor

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



Follow us on Facebook.



Follow us on Instagram.



Celebrate the Taste!

Labor Day Weekend • Fri., Sat. & Sun., Sept. 4-6, 2026

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

See the Taste of Melrose Park 2026 Entertainment/Food Info and Sponsor Ads on Pages 27-78!



Village of Melrose Park

Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor

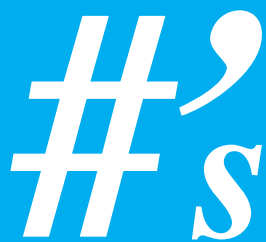
Mary Ann Paolantonio, Village Clerk

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 MeetingsSept. 28, Oct. 26

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

Oct. 12 and Nov. 11

Resident Response

Dear Melrose Park Police Ofc. Dominick Rovito ...

It is with great pride and sincere appreciation that the National Police Dog Foundation formally notifies you of the approval of a grant awarded in support of Lupo.

In recognition of the extraordinary service and sacrifice demonstrated by you, your agency and your K9 partner, the National Police Dog Foundation has approved funding to cover dental repair.

A reimbursement check in the amount of \$3,218.86 will be issued and mailed to the following address: UW Veterinary Care, AC# 378917, 2015 Linden Dr., Madison, WI 53706

K9s like Lupo exemplify courage, loyalty and selfless service. It is an honor for the National Police Dog Foundation to stand beside those who dedicate their lives – and the lives of their canine partners – to protecting our communities and our country.



Please know that this grant is given not only as financial support, but as a heartfelt expression of gratitude and respect for all that you, your fellow officers and Lupo have given in service.

On behalf of the National Police Dog Foundation, thank you for your commitment, your sacrifice and your unwavering dedication. It is our privilege to support you.

If you have any questions or need anything else, please feel free to contact me directly.

• With deepest respect and appreciation,
Dr. John Waterhouse, BVSc CCRP
Veterinary Medical Grant Committee

Dear MP Police Chief Greco and Deputy Chief Rodriguez ...

I wanted to extend my gratitude for the assistance provided by Ofc. Rovito and K9 Lupo during a drug investigation conducted on July 17, 2026, by the Bellwood Police Department Investigations Division.

As a result of the investigation, cocaine was recovered and one offender was placed under arrest. This operation would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance of Ofc. Rovito and K9 Lupo. Ofc. Rovito was knowledgeable, professional and an asset throughout the operation. His knowledge and willingness to assist were instrumental in the successful outcome of the investigation.

As always, I am available to assist your department whenever needed, and I look forward to working with Ofc. Rovito, K9 Lupo and the rest of the Melrose Park Police Department on future investigations.

• Detective C. Woods-Ortiz #805
Bellwood Police Department, Investigations Division

Dear Melrose Park Police Chief Greco ...

On behalf of the Lincolnshire Police Department, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Ofc. Dom Rovito for the dedicated response to our department during the Turning Point U.S.A. Educators Summit, June 16-19, 2026, at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort.



Ofc. Rovito, who contributed as part of NIPAS Mobile Field Force, worked seamlessly alongside our personnel and demonstrated exceptional professionalism throughout an uncertain situation. The presence not only

strengthened our operational capability, but also provided reassurance to those visiting, living and working in the Lincolnshire community.

The successful management of an event depends on effective teamwork, clear communication and a steadfast dedication to public service. Ofc. Rovito demonstrated these principles with professionalism. We greatly appreciate the support provided and the collaborative partnership that helped maintain public safety and ensured the event proceeded peacefully.

Please extend our heartfelt thanks to Ofc. Rovito who contributed to the response. It was a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated law enforcement professional.

- With warmest regards,
Joseph Leonas, Chief of Police
Village of Lincolnshire

Dear MP Police Chief Anthony Greco ...

I want to express our gratitude for the assistance provided by your Ofc. SRT Sgt. Rossi, SRT Ofc. Schiller and SRT Ofc. Sullo at the Leyden Township Community Days summer festival on Saturday, July 25. As you know, this was a joint event with Leyden Township and Veterans Park District. We had approximately 5,000-6,000 people attend this event on Saturday – between the carnival and the fireworks – and not one single police-related incident. I can only attribute this to the increased police presence.

On behalf of Northlake Mayor Sherwin, Leyden Township Supervisor Rocco Biscaglio and Veterans Park Executive Director Bill Otte, thank you and your officers for your support.

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



The Taste of Melrose Park is Looking for VOLUNTEERS



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 call Lorena at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4452.

Interested parties, please respond as soon as possible!

If volunteering as a group, please provide a main contact person's information.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ... 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	Second Year
Passenger Plate	Now-Dec. 31 \$55	Jan. 1-Dec. 31 \$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-Dec. 31
B Plate	\$95
C Plate	\$145
D Plate	\$145
F Plate	\$145
H Plate	\$145
J Plate	\$155
K Plate	\$155
L Plate	\$175
M Plate	\$185
N Plate	\$195
P Plate	\$205
Q Plate	\$205
R Plate	\$215
S Plate	\$225
T Plate	\$245
V Plate	\$265
X Plate	\$285
Z Plate	\$305

IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

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

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



Melrose Park Fire DepartmentNEWS



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

Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

"COOK WITH CAUTION"

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



Cooking and Kids

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

FACTS

- ❗ The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ❗ Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.



**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

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

keeping your family safe.



Chief Anthony Greco

**Parents, be smart about school safety.
Here are a few tips to get you started ...**

- If your child is ready to walk to school or a bus stop without adult supervision, make sure to plan the safest, most direct route, and walk it with your child beforehand.
- Teach your child never to talk to strangers, approach a car, or accept rides from anyone they don't know well or don't trust.
- If you've decided your child is old enough to arrive home alone, make sure to review emergency plans and set up safety rules such as calling a parent upon arrival to check in.
- Have a plan should your child miss the bus, or their ride does not arrive to pick them up.
- Be sure your child knows their home phone number and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult, and how to call 911 for emergencies.

Rules for a child that walks or bikes to school

- Go with a buddy and always stay on the agreed upon route.
- Follow an emergency backup plan; such as carrying a cell phone or identifying a house along the route that is a safe place to go where someone would be home.
- Obey all traffic signals, signs and crossing guards.
- Wear bright colors to be seen easily.
- Wear your safety helmet when biking.

Rules for a child that rides the bus:

- Arrive at the bus stop a few minutes early.
- Establish a safe place to wait for the bus away from the street.
- Allow the bus to come to a complete stop and double check for other traffic before stepping out into the street.
- Cross 10 feet out in front of the bus and ensure the driver can see you.

Rules for a child that is driven to school:

- Stay on the school grounds once you are dropped off and while waiting to be picked up.
- Never go with anyone other than your parent or previously agreed upon person.
- Parents, watch your children until they safely enter the schoolyard or building.
- Always use age appropriate restraints such as a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt. The back seat is the safest place for children.

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



SEARCH

for 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



Always Stepping Up ...

Melrose Park Fire Department Welcomes New Captain and New Lieutenant



Earlier this year, two Melrose Park firefighters received well-deserved promotions.

The Melrose Park Fire Department (MPFD) proudly congratulates newly promoted Capt. Mark Otmaskin and newly promoted Lt. Eric Andersen on this outstanding achievement. This promotion is a true reflection of their dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment to serving and protecting our community.

MPFD 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.

Capt. Otmaskin and Lt. Andersen – Congratulations on your promotions and best wishes for an incredible journey ahead from Mayor Serpico, Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame and your colleagues at MPFD.

Pictured (top photo, left) MP Police & Fire Commissioner Sal Manzo and Capt. Otmaskin; (top photo, right) Commissioner Manzo and Lt. Andersen; and (bottom photo) Capt. Otmaskin and Lt. Andersen with friends and colleagues.

Melrose Park Police Dept. K9 Lupo Featured in July Issue of *National Police Dog Foundation Newsletter*

JULY 2026

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

K9 LUPO

*Melrose Police Department
(Wisconsin)*

Lupo is a 3-year-old German Shepherd and a highly trained police K9 specializing in narcotics detection, tracking, suspect apprehension, and handler protection. While serving his community, Lupo suffered a broken canine tooth while on duty. Due to the specialized nature of his injury, he required advanced veterinary treatment (which included a custom titanium crown) to restore his ability to safely and effectively continue his important work.

The Foundation was honored to provide funding to help cover K9 Lupo's specialized veterinary care at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

We are proud to share that Lupo has made a full recovery and is back on the streets alongside Officer Rovito, continuing his mission of protecting his community.

This grant is a powerful reminder of the impact our donors make. Every donation helps ensure that K9s who serve on the front lines receive the critical medical care and support they need to continue protecting and serving.





25th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance

★★★ *For those who serve and protect...* ★★★

★ *Monday, September 14* ★

A celebratory Mass of thanks and a tribute to all police, fire, public safety, security, military, medical, emergency, and all first responders.



MASS AT 7:00 PM

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

★ DURING THE MASS ★



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



★ AFTER MASS ★



Stay and enjoy an outdoor reception on the church patio
Come and pay tribute to those who entrust themselves under HER protection to serve and protect the community.



All who have served are requested to wear their uniforms, caps, or other insignia.



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine

1101 N 23rd Avenue, Melrose Park, IL 60160



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



**MELROSE
PARK
PUBLIC
WORKS**



Melrose Park Public Safety News

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

Public Information Regarding Resident Safety Outdoor Warning System

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



Warning System Activation

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

Alert Warning

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

Attack Warning

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

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

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

- Alert warning signal (steady siren) will sound for one minute.

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

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

Reactivation

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

All Clear

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

Sheltering In Place

Should I Shelter at Home?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Guidelines for Staying Put (Sheltering In Place)

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

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

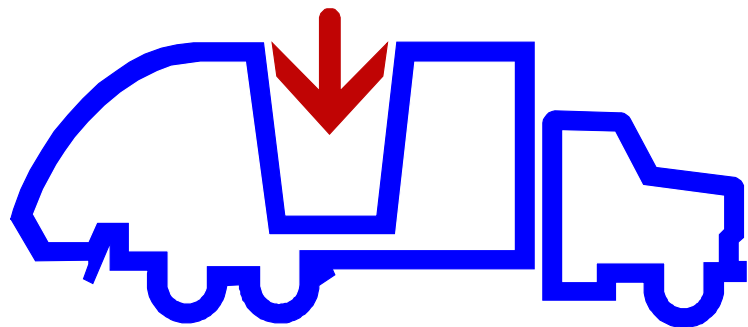
Use common sense and available information to assess the situation and determine if there is immediate danger. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to take this kind of action.

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

Additional Sheltering in Place Guidelines

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





Village of Melrose Park Residential Garbage Pickup Information

Republic Services Garbage Schedule for Residential Bi-Weekly Pickup

24th Avenue to 11th Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

Winston Park Area – Tuesday and Friday

West Melrose – Tuesday and Friday

North of North Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

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

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

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

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

The Village of Melrose Park Public Works Department Garbage Pickup Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This service is for Melrose Park residents in single and two-flat buildings only. Commercial and apartment buildings must use a private scavenger company.

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

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

ATTENTION RESIDENTS – CALL TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT RESIDENT GARBAGE CANS

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

REPLACEMENT RESIDENT RECYCLING CANS

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



Village of Melrose Park Public Works Report

*From the Desk of
Gary Marine,
Director of Public Works*

Multi-Purpose Field

A new state-of-the-art, multi-purpose field has been set in place at the Ralph "Babe" Serpico Memorial Field on 25th Avenue. The new diverse field can be used for a foot-ball field, soccer field, uni-fied 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.

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.



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.

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.



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MORE--ALL FOR FREE!



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WITHOUT PAYING A DIME.



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

Memorial Day thru Labor Day - Closed on Saturdays

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



www.mpplibrary.org

Adult Fall Programs

GENTLE YOGA
SATURDAY SEPT 19TH 12 PM-1 PM
MEDITATION SOUNDBATH
SATURDAY OCT 17th 12 PM-1 PM
CHAIR YOGA Begin Your Journey
FRIDAYS 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Sept 18 Oct 16 Nov 20
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

REAL ESTATE SEMINAR IN SPANISH
— FOR HOME BUYERS —
SATURDAY, SEPT. 12
11:00 PM - 12:00 PM
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED



H.H. HOLMES & THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY
SATURDAY, OCT. 3
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED



TRITON COLLEGE: EARTH AND SPACE CENTER
★ VISIT ★
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
REGISTER NOW!



SIMPLE YET IMPRESSIVE MEALS WITH CHEFT MADDOX
Saturday, November 21st
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Registration is required



GEN-AI TRAINING WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, DEC 5
11 AM - 12:30 PM
Registration is required



Join Matt Quinn
Founder of Be Kind AI
Advisors



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.

KIDS PROGRAM

ABC STORYTIME!
FOR KIDS 0-5
Read • Play • Grow • Together!

WE READ!
Fun books and stories come to life!

Every Wednesday
10 A.M.-10:30 A.M.

PLAY & EXPLORE!
JUST PLAY TIME!

10:30-11:00 AM
EVERY WEDNESDAY

A time to play, explore, and have fun!

In the Youth Services

KIDS CRAFTY CORNER
September 8th - September 11th
ALL DAY AND ALL WEEK

www.mpplibrary.org

STEM

MARSHMALLOW WARFARE
SEPTEMBER 15TH 5 P.M. - 6 P.M.

MEET A SPORTSWRITER!

Thursday, Sept. 17
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Join us as we welcome sportswriter and author **Maggie Hendricks**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

CD HOOVER CRAFT

SCIENCE IN ACTION. FUN IN MOTION!

BUILD IT. BLOW IT. WATCH IT ZOOM!

DESIGN. EXPERIMENT. DISCOVER!

LEARN. BUILD. PLAY!

CREATE YOUR OWN HOVERCRAFT POWERED BY AIR!

SEPTEMBER 29TH @ 5 PM-6 PM

CREEPY CANDY TASTING!

TUESDAY, OCT. 13
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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.

FALL PROGRAM



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.



Village of Melrose Park

Garage Sale Notice

Garage Sales are Back ...

It's Time to Sell All Those Treasures

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

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

The remaining dates for 2026 are 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***

Manage Your Water Bill Anytime

SMARTER • EASIER • ONLINE

Register your online water account today and unlock convenient, secure access to your account 24/7.

WHY REGISTER?

- ✓ Secure online bill payments
- ✓ 24/7 access to your account
- ✓ View current and past statements
- ✓ Track your payment history
- ✓ Monitor water usage and consumption history
- ✓ Enroll in Paperless Billing (eBill) and receive bills by email

GETTING STARTED IS EASY

You'll only need:

- ✓ Your Water Account Number
- ✓ The name on your account (enter it in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS)

It only takes a few minutes to set up — and you're in control of your account from anywhere, anytime.

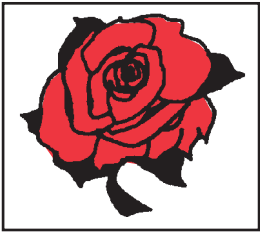
VISIT: www.melrosepark.org

Water Bill Payment → Water Bill Management

After registering, click eBill Enrollment to receive your water bill by email.

Skip the Paper. Save Time. Stay Connected.

REGISTER TODAY!



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**

*Recently
Announced!*

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 _____

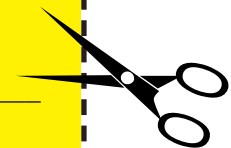
Phone Number/Alternate Number _____

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 _____

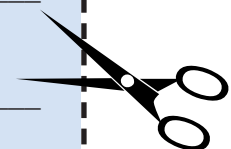
Phone Number/Alternate Number _____

Emergency cases will be transported to Gottlieb Hospital by ambulance.

Medical Conditions _____

Medications _____

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





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.



17TH ANNUAL
BIG BASH BUFFET
Under the Tent!



SUNDAY
SEPT 20TH

12:00 PM – 5:30 PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

DJ/MC Jerry "Jamz" Renda • Tony Ocean
Nick Psychogios • Bill Seritella • Elliot Wimbush
Regina Karma • Stefanie Brinegar
John Anthony • Ronnie B. Elvis
The Chicago Alumni • HoneyBears

OUR PROUD SPONSORS

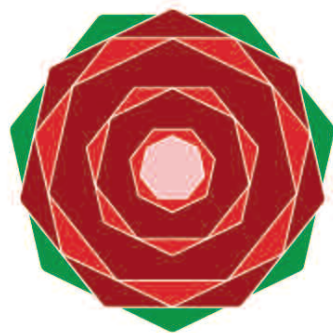


\$40 DONATION PER PERSON BEER, WINE & SODA INCLUDED

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 224-600-0333

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL**





MELROSE PARK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

New Chamber Members and Renewals

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) welcomed five new businesses as members to the chamber in June and July 2026, and has over 225 current members. Please help us welcome and thank Buffalo Wild Wings Go; Midwest Auto Body Shop Inc.; Sommerville Plating Company; Video and Sound Services, Inc.; and the village of Hillside on their membership and partnership with the MPCCCD.

We also want to give special thanks to the eight 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 Best Packaging, Inc.; Grifols Biomat USA, Inc.; Kerry Incorporated; Little Achievers Child Care; Scudiero's Italian Bakery & Deli; Smile Success Dental Centre; Special T Unlimited, and Wiscon Corp./Caputo Cheese.

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

Connecting Businesses to Businesses and Other Resources! How to Maximize Your Social Security Benefits

On June 23, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development partnered with chamber member Corrigan Financial Services and hosted a seminar to help educate attendees on how to maximize their Social Security benefits and to understand options and programs available to them with their financial planning for retirement.

The presentation was facilitated by Michael Corrigan, president of Corrigan Financial Services, and participants were provided with workbooks to help them in preparing their personal plan to maximize their benefits and to help everyone understand the current rules/laws regarding Social Security benefits, as well as pending changes.

To get a free copy of the workbook used for this session, visit <https://corriganfs.com/useful-guides/> and select *Optimizing Social Security in Today's World*.

Corrigan Financial offers programs and services to assist with personal financial planning and programs for business owners, as well as employee benefit programs. For more information, visit <https://corriganfs.com> or call (708) 482-3800.



Food Safety and Sanitation – ServSafe

On June 24, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) partnered with Triton College to offer a food safety course titled

ServSafe: Food Safety and Sanitation. This course was a full day of training that was facilitated by Chef Ernie Davis, who is a certified instructor of food safety followed by a two-hour Food Manager Certification Examination.



According to Laura Fisher, director of Corporate Partnerships and Academic Outreach at Triton College, this was the first time that she has worked with the ServSafe Certification Program where 100% of the participants (15) were able to successfully pass the certification test on their first attempt.

The MPCCCD was able to offer this program tuition free to participants through a safety grant that was received from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Development.

The chamber would like to thank all the partnerships and support that enabled this program to happen, and a special thanks goes to the business owners that make employee training a priority to ensure they meet the needs of their customers and our community.

Your Safety – Our Priority Seminar

On Aug. 4, the MPCCCD partnered with the Melrose Park Police Department to discuss new and existing technologies to help businesses reduce risk to crimes and to

improve/expedite response times, as well improve access to information to investigate crimes after they have occurred. This seminar was facilitated by Lt. Sam Chiappetta of the Melrose Park Police Department, who has been working closely with the chamber, the village of Melrose Park and local businesses to help them safely enable access to selected cameras at their business to the Police Department and their Real-Time Crime Center to begin to gather information before police arrive.



During the presentation, Lt. Chiappetta provided a real-time demonstration of how the Police Department was able to monitor a test emergency call to the parking lot of Winston Plaza and view cameras in their parking lots and perimeter of the shopping center so officers are able to immediately monitor the area and also deploy their drone to the area, and identify and monitor suspects until police could arrive on the scene.



Lt. Chiappetta also explained the benefit of access to this information after a crime has occurred in the investigative stage and how it significantly reduces officer hours needed for tracking down witnesses, conducting interviews and gathering information that was likely already captured on video, which puts officers back on the road and in our neighborhoods and business districts to deter criminal and nuisance activity.

For more information or to schedule a free assessment and recommendations on security and risk management for your business, contact Lt. Sam Chiappetta at (708) 344-8409.

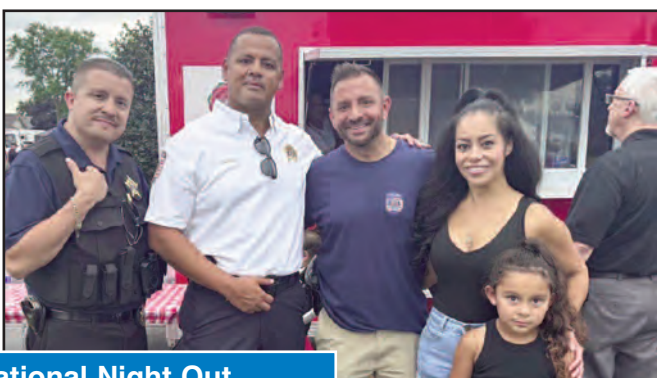
MELROSE PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Summer Fun and Community Connections

August and September have become big community event months for the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD). First up again this year was the National Night Out which was celebrated in Melrose Park on Aug. 12. This year's event was held at Bulger Park and although previous events have been well attended, the park atmosphere truly created a neighbors night out atmosphere and attendance was more than double prior years events. The chamber joined our first responders from the Melrose Park Police Department, Fire Department, Cook County Sheriff's Office, West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, West Suburban Response Team, US Army and other local businesses to welcome the community and truly just have a good old neighborhood gathering.



Melrose Park's National Night Out



District 89's Back-to-School Picnic



On Saturday Aug. 15, the MPCCCD joined Maywood School District 89 for its annual Back-to-School Picnic and resource fair, as all families with students in District 89 schools prepared for the 2026-2027 school year that began on Thursday Aug. 20.

As the chamber has done the past five years, it held the Bike Raffle and this year we were able to provide bikes to 14 lucky students from schools in District 89. We want to thank D89 Superintendent Dr. Algeanna Griffin and the entire D89 team for allowing the chamber to participate in this year's District 89 Back-to-School Bash.

Upcoming Seminars and Networking Events

The MPCCCD primary functions are to connect businesses to resources and to connect businesses to business customers. These are accomplished through the regular monthly breakfast seminars, as well as the quarterly Chamber After Hours networking events.

Our upcoming events include – In September the chamber will be hosting a seminar and workshop with the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment from the Illinois Department of Commerce to help small- and mid-sized businesses better understand resources, programs and grants, etc., that are available to help them sustain and grow their business. Although the date has not been finalized, this is planned to take place the last two weeks in September. Information will

be sent via email and will also be on the Events calendar on the chamber website.

If you are not currently on the email list with the MPCCCD, please register for our newsletter at <https://mpcccd.org>.

In October, the chamber will be hosting our final Chamber After Hours networking event prior to the 2026 holiday season. Watch for details regarding this event and be sure to register early as these events generally fill up very quickly. Details on this event will be sent to all email addresses currently receiving newsletters and emails from the chamber, with early registration information sent to chamber members a few days in advance of general communication or posting to the website and social media.

Join Us at the Taste of Melrose Park for Bingo, Raffle and Fun!



The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Bingo and for its fifth consecutive year at the Taste 2026! All Bingo games and the MPCCCD Raffle are 50/50 payouts with winners receiving 50% of the cash prizes and the other 50% will again be donated to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Food Pantry. MPCCCD Executive Director Isaac Bazbaz said, "Hosting Bingo at the Taste is a great opportunity to connect with the community and make a difference by supporting the OLMC Food Pantry. Over the past four years, we were able to join Mayor Serpico and present checks totaling over \$25,000 to the pantry just ahead of the holiday season with the money raised during Bingo and the 50/50 Raffle!"

Join us in the Gym (entrance is by the Peroni Garden) for some Bingo Fun Friday night from 5-9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 1-8 p.m., for your chance to win a little \$\$\$ and help us make a difference in the community.

Bingo cards are \$2 each and 50/50 Raffle tickets are only \$5 each. Join us in the Gym for some 2026 Bingo Fun!



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

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

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

Melrose Park Free Methodist Church Hosts Free Fitness Tips Event

On Sunday, Aug. 30, the Melrose Park Free Methodist Church will be hosting its Free Fitness Tips Seminar at 11:15 a.m. (promptly). All are invited to join us for this free one-hour event teaching simple fitness tips.

These tips will be taught by Ms. Faith Pagani.

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

These tips can be performed with ease. Designed for a quick and effective workout at home.

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

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



**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 – October 2026
(Deadline for material – Oct. 1, 2026.)
Remaining Schedule for 2026
October and December

Dear Community Member,

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

Included is display ad pricing for your review.

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

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

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

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



Rates – Full Color Ads

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

Date _____

Name of Business _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

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

The **ROSE**



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.





**Enjoy the 44th Annual
Taste of Melrose Park
Compliments of
Mayor Ronald M. Serpico
Village Clerk Mary Ann Paolantonio
&
Village Trustees
Anthony Abruzzo • Jaime Anguiano
Arturo Mota • Sonny Nicotera
Mary Ramirez-Taconi • Anthony “Tony” Williams**

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

Welcome to the 2026 Taste of Melrose Park Celebrating Our 44th Year!



If you enjoy a smorgasbord of delicious homemade food, rocking out to great local bands, and are closely watching the family pocketbook, you have come to the right place ... the 44th annual Taste of Melrose Park.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bon Appetit,

Ron Serpico
Mayor Ron Serpico





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 Olivia 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

Continuous Free Entertainment
All Weekend Long!

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

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Check Out Some of the Taste's Entertainment Features! And ... This is Only a Few!



Chicago's Own Piano Man Band
Friday, Sept. 4 • 9 p.m.
Main Stage



Bad Medicine – Tribute to Bon Jovi
Saturday, Sept. 5 • 5 p.m. • Main Stage



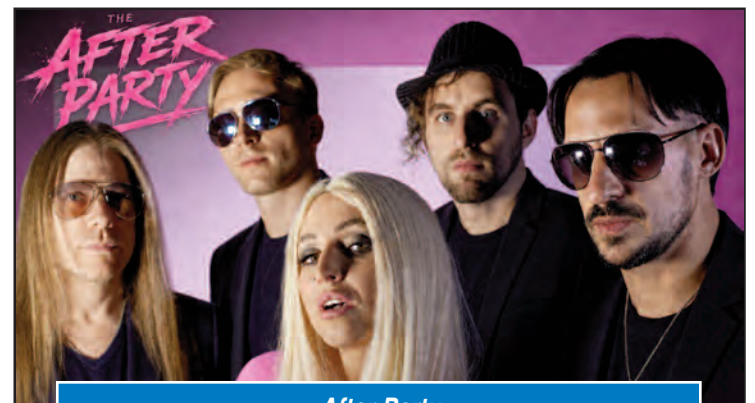
Always Olivia Tribute
Saturday, Sept. 5
6:45 p.m.
Main Stage



American English – Beatles Tribute
Saturday, Sept. 5 • 8:45 p.m. • Main Stage



Breakfast Club
Sunday, Sept. 6 • 3:30 p.m.
Main Stage



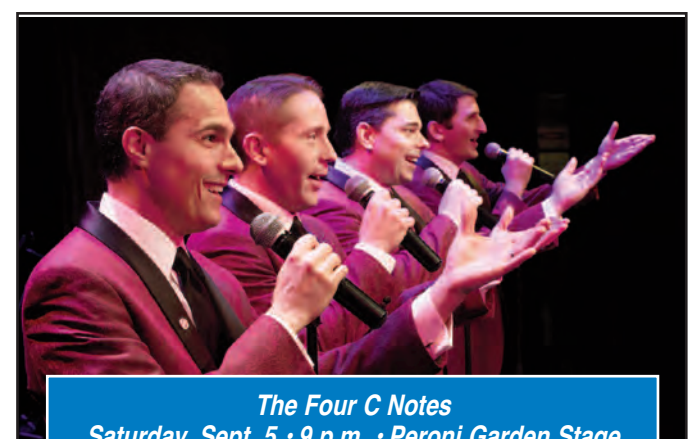
After Party
Sunday, Sept. 6 • 5:30 p.m. • Main Stage



The Shagadelics
Sunday, Sept. 6 • 8 p.m. • Main Stage



Reckless
Saturday, Sept. 5 • 6 p.m.
Peroni Garden Stage



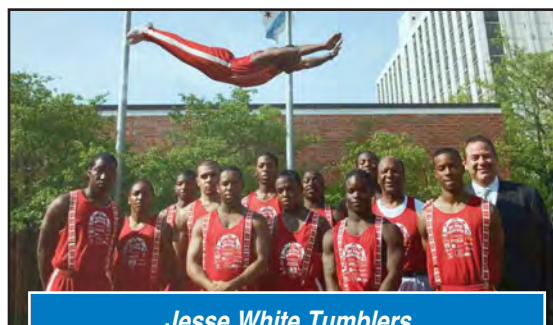
The Four C Notes
Saturday, Sept. 5 • 9 p.m. • Peroni Garden Stage



Taylor Live
Sunday, Sept. 6 • 3 p.m.
Peroni Garden Stage



Jersey Girls
Sunday, Sept. 6 • 5 p.m.
Peroni Garden Stage



Jesse White Tumblers
Saturday, Sept. 5 and Sunday, Sept. 6
1:30 p.m. • Main Drive

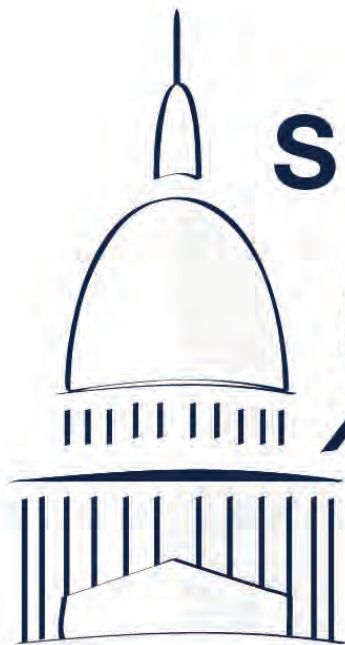


Laser Encore Grand Finale
Sunday, Sept. 6 • 10 p.m.
Football Field

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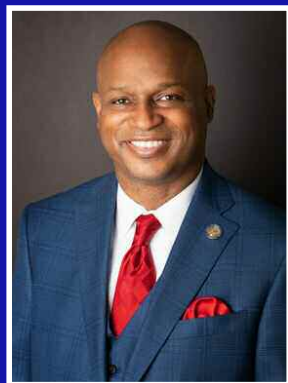
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and
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on Another Wonderful
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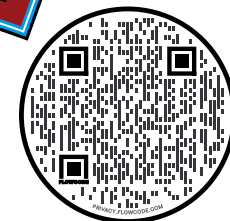
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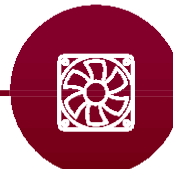
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Fall Family Fun Fest

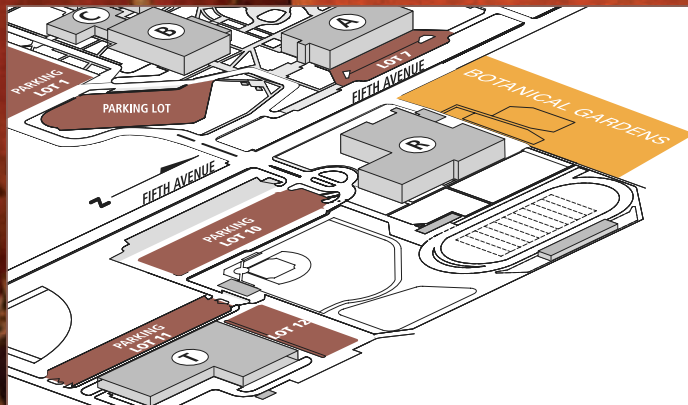
Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Triton College Botanical Gardens (East Campus)

Enjoy a variety of autumn-themed activities
and games designed for all ages.

The event is FREE and open to the public,
with food and treats available for purchase.

Go to triton.edu/fallfest for future updates.



The Botanical Gardens are located
on the east side of the Triton College
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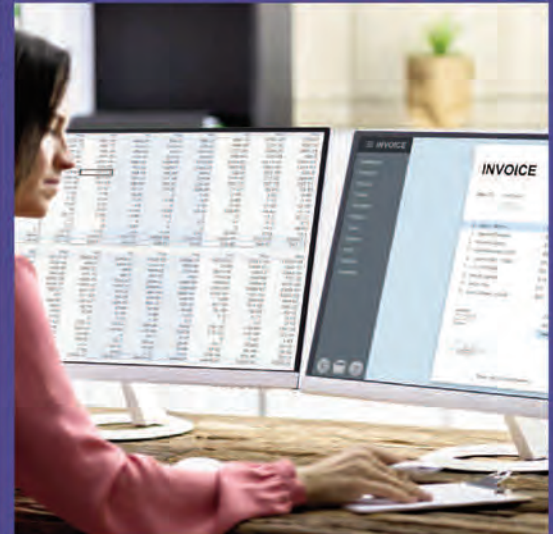
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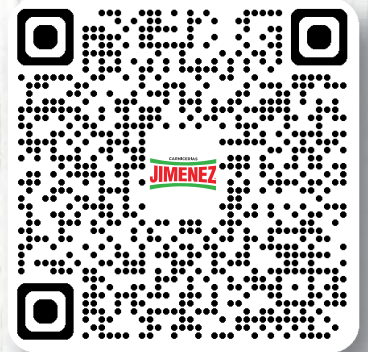
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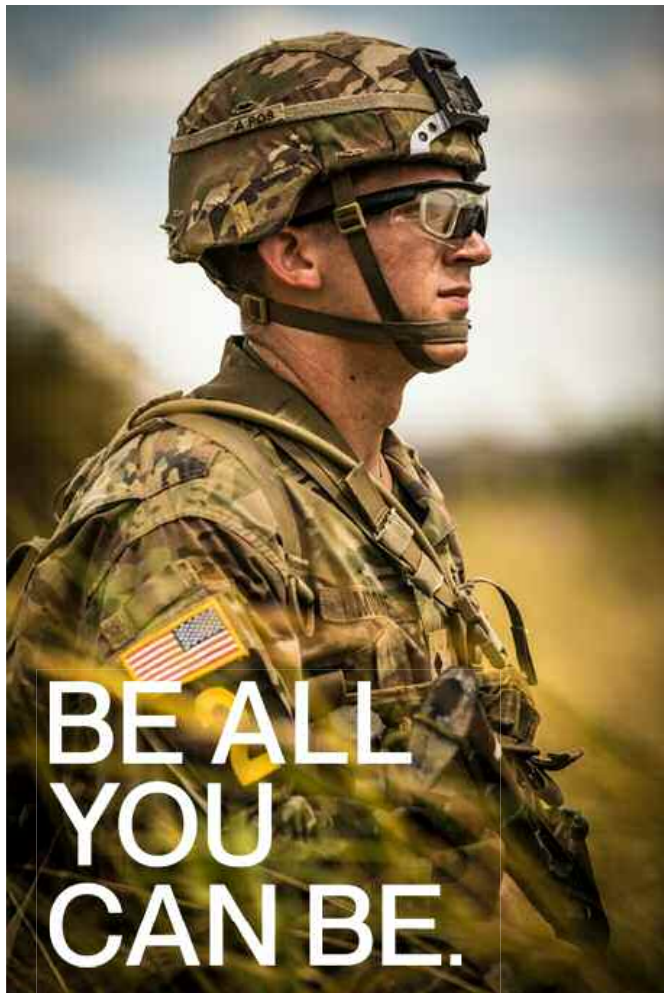
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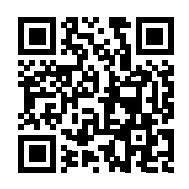
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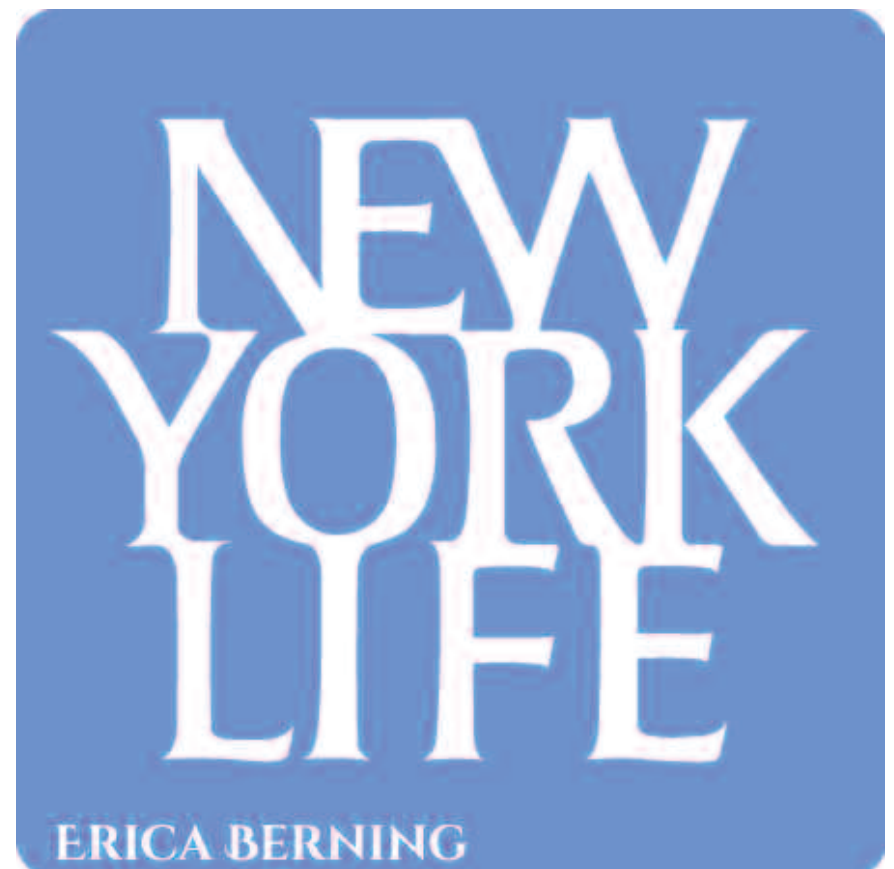


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Rich Mountain

The logo consists of two large, white-outlined triangles pointing towards each other, forming a larger triangle. Inside the central negative space of this larger triangle is a white-outlined letter 'R'. The word 'Rich Mountain' is written in a white, sans-serif font, arched over the top of the triangles.

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Happy Taste of MP!



A business card for Heavenly Sweets. The background is a light pink with a gold glitter border at the top. On the left is a black circle with a yellow halo and the text "Heavenly Sweets". In the center, the text "Homemade & Delicious By Mita & Cynthia" is written in a cursive font. On the right is a gold QR code, the Instagram handle "@heavenlysweets_xo", and contact information: "Contact Info: 312-709-2173 Or 773-332-1537".

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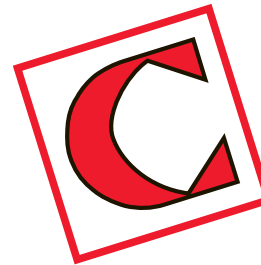
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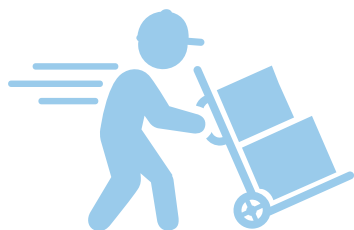
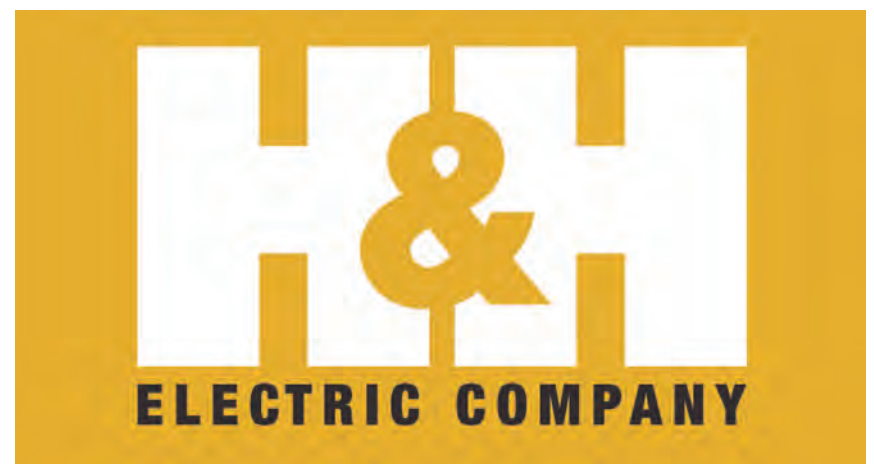
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2026
Taste of Melrose Park

Celebrating Our 44th Year
September 4th, 5th & 6th

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Winston Plaza Hosts Free Cinema Night



Come join Winston Plaza under the stars for a free Open Air Cinema Night featuring **The Super Mario Galaxy Movie** Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Gates open at 6 p.m., movie starts at 7 p.m.

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.

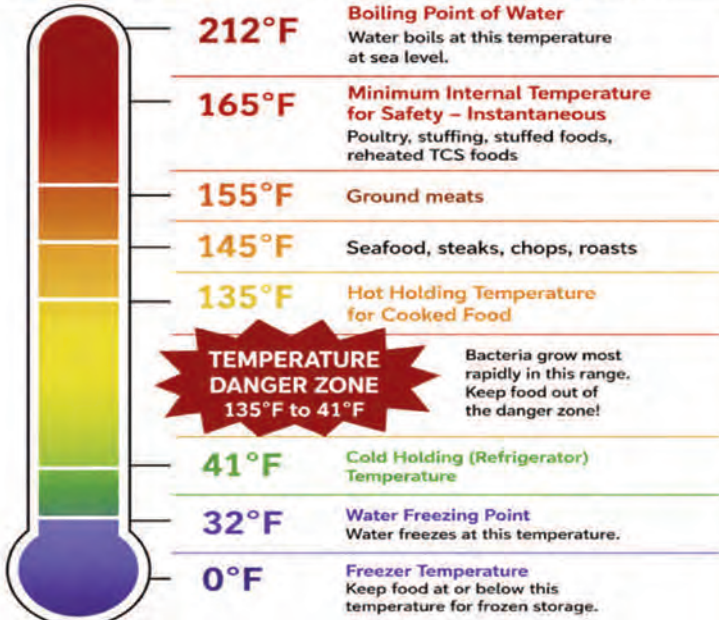
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Veterans Park District

Programs & Happenings

Early Childhood Building Blocks Preschool 2026-2027 Ages 3-5

Our preschool is designed for children ages 3-5, focusing on physical, social, intellectual and creative development. We believe children learn best through play, which helps them communicate, explore, solve problems and make decisions. Our curriculum, based on Illinois Early Learning Standards, combines free play with teacher-guided activities that introduce letters, numbers, colors and shapes. School year runs from Aug. 31, 2026-May 7, 2027.

- 9 a.m.-noon; Bulger Park, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Three-day fee – R\$203/ NR\$233 or Two-day fee – R\$141/ NR\$171, per month, plus \$100 nonrefundable deposit.

Early Explorers • Ages 2-5

Join us on an alphabet adventure! Each week children are introduced to different groups of letters in an alphabet, their sounds and shapes. They will learn through books, flashcards, hands-on activities and crafts. By the end of the program, each child will have created their very own ABC book to take home and enjoy for years to come.

- Wednesdays, Oct. 28-Nov. 25, 12:15-1 p.m.; Bulger Park Community Center, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$40/NR\$50; Note – 2- and 3-year-old participants must be accompanied by adult.

Little Chefs Pop Up: "Halloween Treats" • Ages 2-5

No tricks, just treats at this hands-on Halloween workshop. We'll show you and your little ones how to create salty and sweet bites that have a Halloween twist. Little chefs and parents will work together to create delicious snacks perfect for enjoying at home during the spooky season.

- Thursday, Oct. 1, 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Grant Park Recreation Center, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$30/NR\$40; Note – 2- and 3-year-old participants must be accompanied by adult.

Creative Arts

Art Mix • Ages 6+

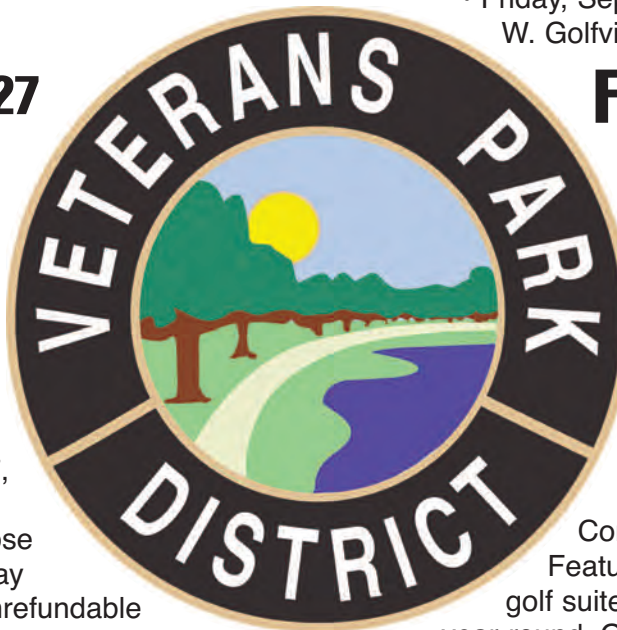
Explore, create and get messy! In this mixed media class, young artist experiment with a variety of art materials and techniques, including painting, collage, clay and drawing. Participants will have the opportunity to express their creativity while making unique take-home projects and learning something new each week.

- Mondays, Oct. 26-Nov. 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$75/NR\$85.

Glam Makeover Spa Party! • Ages 6+

Kids will enjoy a fun, interactive spa experience! Participants will receive a mini makeover, decorate and personalize their own hairbrushes, create DIY lip scrubs and play glam makeover-inspired games for a chance to win prizes. Wear your favorite pajamas for a cozy and glamorous evening with friends!

- Friday, Sept. 18, 6-7:30 p.m.; Grant Park Recreation Center, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$35/NR\$45.



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, Youth Boxing and Youth Fitness. Fitness Center members receive 25% off fitness classes. Call Cimbalo Fitness Center at (708) 343-5151 for more information

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Come experience Cimbalo Fitness Center's Golf Suite! Featuring a state-of-the-art Full Swing® golf simulator, our golf suite allows you to have a fun, realistic golf experience year-round. Our golf simulator offers something for everyone of all ages and experience levels, from the super competitive golfer to the super casual. With over 85 courses, multiple skill challenge courses, a driving range and a variety of challenge games/modes of play, we can provide users with a great experience customized to their goals, whether that be improving their golf game or just having fun. Pricing is \$40 for one hour and \$20 for a half-hour rental, please call ahead to reserve a time slot. Cimbalo Fitness Center is located at 1203 N. 24 Ave., Melrose Park. Call (708) 343-5151 to reserve a time.

Youth Athletics Soccer • Ages 8-12

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

- Wednesdays, Sept. 9-Oct. 7, 6-7 p.m.; George Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – \$50.

Baseball • Ages 8-12

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

- Wednesdays, Sept. 9-Oct. 7, 5-6 p.m.; George Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park. Fee – \$50.

Tee Ball • Ages 4-7

Perfect for beginners, kids will hit off a tee, throw, catch and run the bases.

- Wednesdays, Sept. 9-Oct. 7, 4-5 p.m.; George Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park; Fee – \$50.

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

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A graphic with a light blue background featuring the Veterans Park District logo in the center. Surrounding the logo are various social media icons and contact information. At the top, there are icons for Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, each with a corresponding handle: @vpdpark, @VPDpark, and @vpdparks. To the left, a smartphone icon is labeled 'Download our mobile app'. To the right, a telephone icon is labeled '(708) 343.5270' and an email icon is labeled 'E-mail us: vpdsocial@vpdpark.org'. At the bottom, it says 'Visit us online at: vpdpark.org'.



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Veterans Park District *Programs & Happenings*



Veterans Park District has joined the **Leyden Youth Basketball & Youth Volleyball Leagues**

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. Teams will be made based on registration dates.

Call Nico Urbinati at (708) 716-4822 for more information.

BASKETBALL LEAGUE Grades 1st-8th

Dates: Feb 6- Mar 27

Practice date and time – TBD

Games: Saturdays – times and location TBD

R/N Fee: \$110/\$120 (1st and 2nd grade)

\$135/\$145 (3rd through 8th grade)

Registration begins September 28th

Code: #393927



VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE Grades 5th-8th

Dates: Oct 24-Dec 12

Practice date and time – TBD

Games: Saturdays – times and location TBD

R/N Fee: \$120/\$130

Registration ends September 21st

Code: #393927

Volunteer Coaches are needed for this league to be successful. If you are interested in coaching, please call Nico at (708) 716-4822.

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Veterans Park District Programs & Happenings

Real-Life Skills Workshop

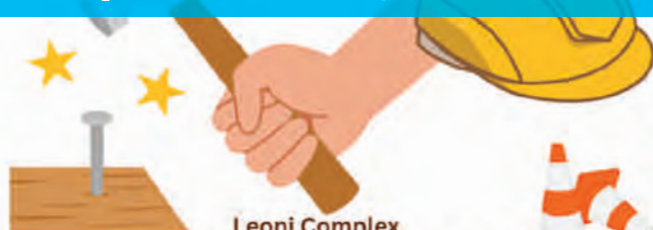
- ✂ Learn to use household tools safely
- ⚙ Explore plumbing basics
- 🔨 Try beginner woodworking projects
- 💡 Build confidence & independence
- 👨 Hands-on projects each week
- ★ Learn practical life skills while having fun!



Ages 8+
Saturdays
Aug 22-Sept 19*
*No Class Sept 5
11:30AM-12:30PM



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HIP HOP

Ages 9-12
6-7pm

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SEPT 23-NOV 18*
NO CLASS NOV 11
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\$110R/125NR
PER CLASS

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George A Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave, Melrose Park

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Little Campers

Ages 6+
Friday, October 9th
6:30-8:00PM
\$30 R/\$35 NR

- Play fun lawn games!
- Create your own colorful tie-dye T-shirt to take home as a keepsake!
- Learn how to pitch a tent like a camping pro!
- End the night with a classic camping treat—s'mores!

Bulger Park 1601 Hirsch St, Melrose Park

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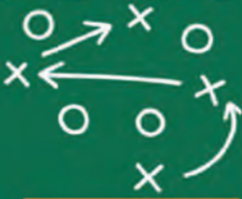
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Veterans Park District Programs & Happenings

HOPS & HOOPS



Ages 4-6
Mondays
4:45-5:30PM
Sept 14-Oct 26
\$55R/\$70NR

- Learn Basketball Basics
- Teamwork & Sportsmanship
- Build Confidence on the Court
- Dribbling, Passing & Shooting

Grant Park Recreation Center
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Alphabet Adventures

Explore the alphabet through stories, activities, and crafts while learning letter names, sounds, and shapes.

Ages 2-5
(2 & 3's with Adult)

Tuesdays
10-11am

Sept 15-Oct 20
\$60R/\$70NR

Grant Park Recreation Center,
 44 W. Golfview Dr. Northlake



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WIGGLE & GIGGLE GYM

AGES 2-6*

*2 & 3 YEAR OLDS MUST BY PARTICIPATE WITH ADULT

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OCT 15-NOV 19
4:45-5:30PM
\$60 R/\$70 NR

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Ages 4-7
\$45R/\$55NR

Ballet 1

Tuesdays
4:45-5:30pm
S1: Oct 27-Nov 17
S2: Nov 24-Dec 15

Young dancers learn basic ballet positions and simple steps through fun movement, music, and imagination.

George A Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave, Melrose Park



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**Veterans
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*Programs
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Triton College NEWS

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Cernan Center Sets Stage for Immersive Journeys With New Planetarium Intro Animation



The Cernan Earth and Space Center has a brand-new introductory animation that will play before most programs. Produced by Cernan Center intern Kyle Blakely, the thrilling sequence sweeps the audience through time and space, offering a preview of the Planetarium's capabilities just before the show's start.

As the lights dim just before the start of a show at Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center, visitors may soon find themselves swept through a glowing portal, racing past a dinosaur, spacecraft and the stars on a journey designed to showcase the magic of the Planetarium itself.

The new 90-second introductory animation was created by 22-year-old Kyle Blakely of Schaumburg, a summer intern at the Cernan Center. According to Cernan Center Director Kris Kovach McCall, the center plans to use Blakely's production as an introduction to the Planetarium before most programs. Kovach McCall describes the sequence as a strong book-end to the Planetarium experience.

Blakely's finished work combines 3D and 2D animation. Viewers are guided through the sequence by a light particle that takes them from the Triton campus into a portal that leads to an imaginative universe. Along the way, viewers encounter hyperspeed effects, a dinosaur, an eagle, a rocket and even Eugene Cernan himself before arriving at the Cernan Center logo.

Blakely said his primary goal was to show audiences what is possible inside the Planetarium. Rather than simply watching something on a screen, he wanted viewers to feel as though they were being transported somewhere else.

"I want to show audiences how exciting it is to be under the dome and what can be accomplished in the Planetarium," he said. "When you come here to watch a program, it takes you to a different place."

For Blakely and Kovach McCall, the rounded screen of the Planetarium dome, which fills the viewer's field of vision, allows them to offer a more immersive experience. With that in mind, Kovach McCall said Blakely approached his project with keen attention to detail.

"He didn't just model the Cernan Center building," she said. "He asked for the architectural elevation from the original blueprints so that the scale and everything would be correct. He asked for the artwork that's in the win-

dows and on the banners. He wanted to create a scenario that was as close to reality as possible."

"That level of immersion carries over to the shows that follow, whether it's a program about dinosaurs, the human eye or the stars and planets," she said.

"So, you're not just seeing, let's say it's a nature documentary, you're not just seeing a bird on a branch in the forest. You're in the forest."

Blakely became familiar with the Cernan Earth and Space Center through an art camp where he worked as a counselor. Earlier this year, he reached out to Kovach McCall because he had experience with 3D modeling and animation but wanted to explore planetarium production. What began as an idea to create a 3D model of the Cernan Center building evolved into an immersive introduction to the Planetarium.

Shows at the Cernan Earth and Space Center are open to the public. Ticket prices vary depending on the program, ranging from \$8-\$10 for adults and \$4-\$5 for seniors ages 55 and older and children ages 2-17. Tickets may only be purchased at the Cernan Center's Star Store on the day of the show, beginning 30 minutes before the first show of the day. There are no advance or online ticket sales.

For the complete schedule of programs along with previews and pricing, go to www.Triton.edu/Cernan. Follow the Cernan Earth and Space Center on Facebook at facebook.com/cernancenter. For more information, contact cernan@triton.edu.

Triton Expands Affordable Online Certificate Options for Out-of-District Students

Triton College is expanding access to affordable, career-aligned education for out-of-district students through its offering of three online career certificate programs.

These fully online certificate pathways – Business Management, Human Resources Management and Basic Early Childhood Education – are designed for busy adults looking to advance their careers. The online format provides flexible opportunities for students to further their education, pursue a credential or advance their careers – wherever they live and wherever they choose to learn.

Each program enables students to learn according to the demands of their schedules while gaining practical skills that translate directly into the workplace.

Business Management – Build a foundation in accounting, marketing, or human resources, while developing the leadership and technical skills needed for high-earning management roles.

Human Resources Management – Learn the essentials of recruiting, training and labor relations as you prepare to support an organization's most valuable resource – its people.

Basic Early Childhood Education – Gain hands-on experience in child development and classroom practice while working in an award-winning licensed childcare center.

"No matter where you live, these online certificate programs make it easier to gain the skills employers are looking for without putting your life on hold," said Alejandro Mendoza, director of Admissions at Triton College.

"From the moment you apply through the completion of your program, our team is here to help you stay on track and achieve your educational and career goals."

All three programs are offered at \$158 per credit hour, a savings of \$239 compared with the out-of-district rate. Financial aid is also available to help make education even more affordable.

Online learning at Triton offers convenience without sacrificing quality. Students receive the same personalized instruction as on-campus students, along with access to free tutoring, library services, counseling and wellness resources, career planning support and more.

Take the first step toward your future by visiting triton.edu to complete a free application.

NEWS89 **School District89** BRIEFS



District 89 Students Learn, Grow and Stay Active This Summer

Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview School District 89 kept students learning, moving and preparing for success through several engaging summer programs.



The District's Summer Enrichment Program welcomed approximately 350 students in grades three through seven. Held at Garfield Elementary School from June 9-July 2, the program provided students with hands-on learning experiences in STEM, art and music. Students explored their creativity, developed new skills and continued learning in a fun and supportive environment.



District 89 also offered two sessions of athletic summer camps for approximately 300 students in grades four through eight. Students participated in a variety of sports and activities, including basketball, volleyball, soccer, bowling, flag football, tumbling, cheering, wrestling, drill team and honor guard. The camps encouraged teamwork, confidence, physical activity and good sportsmanship.



The district's JumpStart Program also supported students during the summer by helping incoming kindergarten, third grade and sixth grade students prepare for their upcoming transitions. Through academic activities and opportunities to become familiar with their new grade-level expectations, students began the school year feeling more confident and ready to learn.

District 89 is proud of every student who participated and grateful to the teachers, coaches and staff members who made these programs possible. With hundreds of students learning, growing and staying active throughout the summer, the district looks forward to a successful 2026-2027 school year.

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

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

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

Dear parishioners and devotees,



Eternally grateful. Abundance of blessings and thanks for your service. On the celebration of the 133rd Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, I want to commend, the entire Feast Committee, the Altar and Rosary Society, the Spanish community and groups, the altar servers, the choir and all the volunteers. Without you this Feast would not have happened, and with no reluctance, this year was a remarkable one.

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

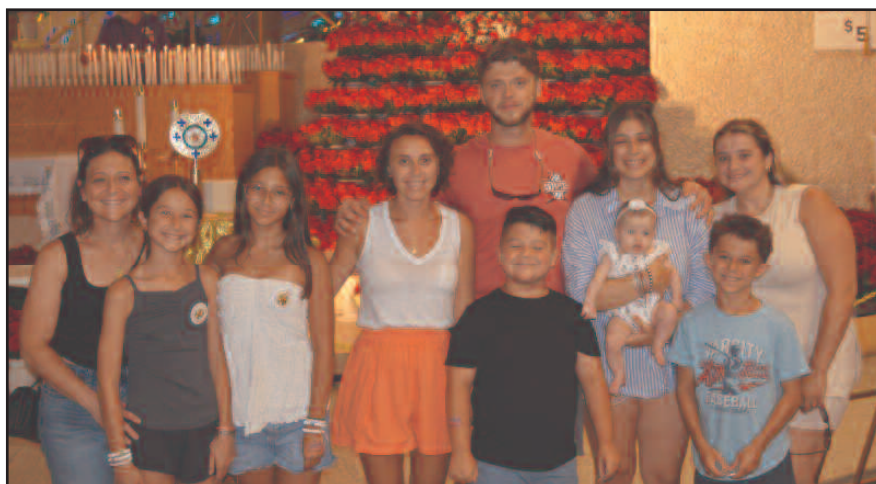


Finally, dear Mayor Ron Serpico, I am writing to commend you for all the support toward the 2026 Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. As you know, this special event attracts hundreds of visitors to our community each year and without the assistance of the village of Melrose Park, the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel would not have been another success.

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

OLMC Feast Committee Block Party

On another note, I want to refer to what happened at OLMC on Friday, July 17, 2026. The group of parishioners, sponsored by the Feast Committee, brought back one night an Italian Block Party. This was a moment of recollection and hope where people could walk toward the plaza and remember the old days with food, music and memories. On the 133rd anniversary of La Festa della Madonna del Carmine, our parish dreams are to bring back traditions and families. Thank you to the men who were instrumental in making this happen. Now we do hear people saying ... BUONA FESTA.



September 2026

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Parish-Shrine

Monday 7 Labor Day 9:00 am Trilingual Mass

Tuesday 8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
6:00 pm Mass English/Italian in the Shrine
6:30 pm Mass Spanish in Church

Wednesday 9 Alpha Starts 6:00 pm Every Wednesday
St. Anthony and Gym

Sunday 13 Festa de Santissima Maria Addolorata
12:00 pm Mass English *No procession*

Monday 14 First Responders Appreciation Mass
7:00 pm English Mass and gathering

Tuesday 15 Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows *Healing Mass*
6:00 pm Mass English/Italian in the Shrine
6:30 pm Mass Spanish in Church

Friday 18 Fr. Giovanni Bizzotto 6:30 pm Mass in all languages
70th Birthday Reception follows in Carmel Hall
40th Priesthood Anniversary

Sunday 20 Catechist Comissioning 9:00 am Spanish Mass

Sunday 20 Saint Padre Pio Feast 10:30 am Italian Mass
Followed by Procession and Reception

Saturday 26 Fall Parish Retreat 11:00 am to 5:00 pm in the Parish Gym
Speaker Fr. Tony Pizzo, OSA
5:30 pm English Mass in Church



*OLMC Vision
A home for all hearts,
fulfilling the mission of Christ*

OUR LADY OF
MOUNT CARMEL
PARISH AND SHRINE

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

OUR
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MOUNT
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PARISH &
SHRINE

*Special
Masses
and
Events*

Call
(708) 344-4140
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September 2026

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Bible Class

FR. LEANDRO FOSSA, CS

Clase de Biblia

FR. THANH KHAN VU, CS

Gospel of John

Thursday 3

Evangelio de Lucas

Gospel of John

Thursday 10

Evangelio de Lucas

Letters of John
1 and 2

Thursday 17

Hechos de los
Apóstoles

Letters of John
3 and Revelation

Thursday 24

Hechos de los
Apóstoles

Location and time
7:15 pm St Anthony's room

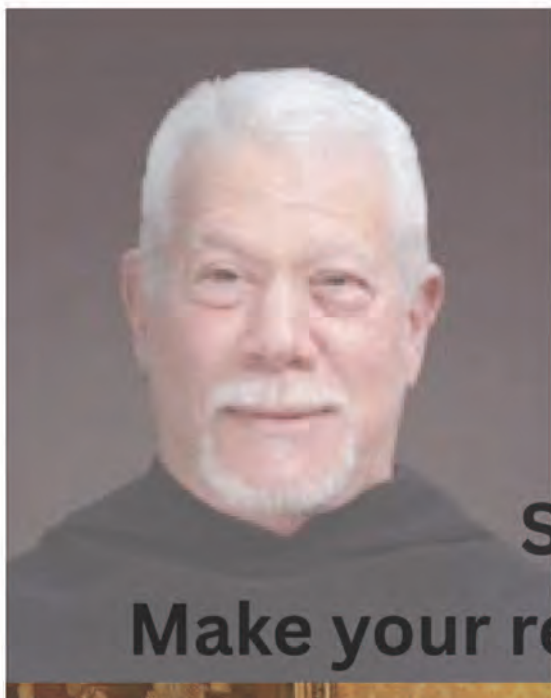
Hora y Lugar
7:15 pm En el Gimnasio

SCALABRINIAN
VOCATIONAL YEAR
2026-2027



humilitas

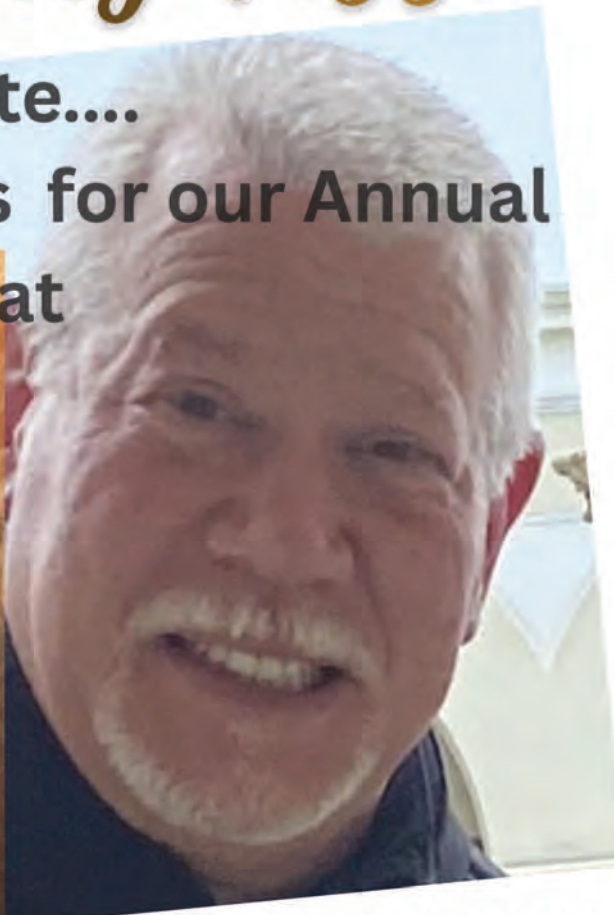
MISSIONARIES OF ST. CHARLES
SCALABRINIANS



Spend the day with
The most reverend
Fr. Tony Pizzo

Save the date....

**Make your reservations for our Annual
Fall Retreat**



*Classmates.....the Provincial with
Pope Leo XIV at the Augustinian
Shrine in Rome*

Fr. Pizzo, is the prior Provincial of the Midwest Augustinians. He has been at OLMC to give a reflection at Altar & Rosary's Evening of Recollection, and most recently, celebrated Mass for the Italian Festa de la Republica this past spring. We look forward to having him return for our fall retreat, and a full day of spiritual refreshment.

Saturday, September 26, 2026 11:00am -5:00pm

Father Pizzo will also celebrate the 5:30pm Mass

\$30. per person (includes lunch and refreshments)

CALL 708-344-4140 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE

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information.



OCTOBER 2026

ORGANIZE YOUR BLESSED MOMENTS

*A home for all hearts
fulfilling the mission of Christ*



04
Sunday

St Francis of Assisi ■ Feast Day
BLESSING OF PETS CHURCH FRONT
ENGLISH ■ 12:00pm SPANISH ■ 6:00pm

07
Wednesday

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
HOLY ROSARY AND MASS
ENGLISH & ITALIAN ■ 6:00pm in the Shrine
SPANISH ■ 6:30pm in Church

17
Saturday

Scalabrini Vocation Youth Event
Games, Talk and food in the Parish Gym
From 3:30pm to 8:30pm

18
Sunday

St. Anthony's Breakfast Buffet
Breakfast served before and after Masses
From 8:30am until 12 noon

24
Saturday

Altar & Rosary Trivia Night
Parish Gym
From 6:30pm until 10:00pm



25
Sunday

Feria del Mole
Variety of Moles in Carmel Parish Hall, after all Masses
From 10:30am until 3:00pm

25
Sunday

San Padre Pio
ITALIAN ■ 10:30am
Mass followed by reception

28
Wednesday

Special Event
Paul Kim - Catholic Influencer
6:00 pm in the Parish Gym

31
Saturday

HOLYWIN
Mass & Saints Costume Presentation
5:30 pm English Mass

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



**OUR LADY OF
MOUNT CARMEL**



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LADY
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MOUNT
CARMEL
PARISH &
SHRINE**

*Special
Masses
and
Events*

Call
(708) 344-4140
for more
information.

St. Anthony Society

BREAKFAST BUFFET

ADULTS \$10
CHILDREN \$6
(UNDER 12)



Sunday

October 18, 2026

(708) 344-4140

Call for reservation

Carmel Hall, 22nd Ave. and
Augusta, Melrose Park, IL

SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH



Sacred Heart Church
819 N. 16th Ave.
Melrose Park, IL



St. Eulalia Church
1825 S. 9th Ave.
Maywood, IL



The following is registration information
for our parish's Religious Education
Program:

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

REQUIREMENTS:

- Baptism Certificate
- Birth Certificate
- First Communion Certificate*
(*for 1st Year of Confirmation)

FAMILY ORIENTATION ON **SEPTEMBER 12** CLASS BEGINS **SEPTEMBER 19**

If you would like to register, please call our Rectory
office at **708-344-0757** and ask for Maria Erazo. Our
parish REP Office is located at the Sacred Heart
Church Rectory Basement. 819 N. 16th Ave. on Iowa
Street in Melrose Park, IL 60160



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (formerly R.C.I.A.)

Who is O.C.I.A. for?

- Those in need of Baptism
- Those baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to become Catholic
- Those baptized Catholic in need of First Communion and Confirmation
- Adults 18-years-old or older

CLASSES BEGIN ON **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16.**

For more information, please call the Rectory office at
708-344-0757.



Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish Pasta Dinner & Show

Saturday, October 17th, 2026 - 6:00pm
Sacred Heart Church Marian Hall (Doors Open 5:30pm)

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

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

Ticket Pre Sales Only



For Tickets

Call:

(708) 344-0757

Cost: \$ 20 Adults

\$ 18 Seniors (65+)

\$ 12 Children (-10)

**Pasta, Meatballs, Salad,
Bread, Dessert,
Pop & Coffee.
Cash Bar.**



**Live DJ
Entertainment**



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



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: **Sept. 4** at **Sacred Heart** and **Oct. 2** at **St. Eulalia**

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on SEPTEMBER 8

8:00am Mass at **Sacred Heart**. There will be a small gathering afterwards with coffee & sweets hosted by Women's Club.



Thursday Adoration and Confession at 7:00pm

Sept. 17 and **Oct. 13** & **Oct. 8** and **Oct. 22** at **Sacred Heart**.
Sept. 10 & **Sept. 24** and **Oct. 15** and **Oct. 29** 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**.



Mass for Our Lady of Charity of Cobre on September

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

Burrito Breakfast on September 20 at St. Eulalia

Enjoy a burrito breakfast hosted by our parish's Club de Libro at St. Eulalia's Parish Hall from **10:00am - 3:00pm**.



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 Handyman Program

Late Summer 2026 – Proviso Township Handyman News

Are you having problems with your door or gate locks? We can replace those for you!

It's time to replace your furnace filter in preparation for the fall months.

It's getting dark out earlier! Time to make sure your outside light fixtures and security lights are in working order.

We can change the lightbulbs or the fixtures. We can also help put away your lawn furniture.

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

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

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



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

+ Only Homeowners within the boundaries of the Proviso Township +

**Michael A. Corrigan
Supervisor**

**Anthony "Tony" Williams
Clerk**

**Steven J. Zawaski
Assessor**

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

Proviso Township Handyman Program



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

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

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

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

WE DO

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

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

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

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

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

WE DO

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

Referrals for Tradesperson - Referrals Only
Not Recommendations

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



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

PROVISO TOWNSHIP – Your Neighbors, Your Government

MICHAEL A. CORRIGAN, SUPERVISOR

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

Gay F. Chase, Trustee • Evelyn Chavez, Trustee

Joseph Christopher, Trustee • Tommy Olson, Trustee

Here to Serve Melrose Park & Surrounding Communities

Thank You Mayor Serpico!



Illinois State Representative
NORMA HERNANDEZ
77th District



*Illinois State Representative
Norma Hernandez*

News from the State Capital

As summer begins to wind down, I encourage everyone to take advantage of the many wonderful community events, activities and opportunities happening throughout our district. The final stretch of the season is a great time to enjoy all that our community has to offer, from local events and outdoor activities to spending quality time with family, friends and neighbors.

We hope you'll join us as we continue celebrating the people, places and experiences that make our community such a wonderful place to call home. Be sure to stay connected and look out for upcoming events and opportunities throughout our district.

As always, my office is here to serve you. Whether you have questions, need assistance navigating state services, or are looking for helpful resources, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are proud to be a resource for our community and are always happy to assist.

Please contact my office at (708) 365-8498. We look forward to hearing from you and continuing to serve our community!



Proclamation of Mexican American Day in Melrose Park:

On July 27, I had the honor of joining the village of Melrose Park for the proclamation of Mexican American Day, an important step toward recognizing and celebrating the history, identity and lasting contributions of Mexican Americans.

As someone whose entire family immigrated from Mexico and made Melrose Park their home, this moment was especially meaningful. My family's story is one of many that helped this community, and seeing those contributions formally recognized reminds me why representation and preserving our history matter. I'm proud to have witnessed the beginning of what I hope becomes a lasting tradition for future generations of Mexican Americans.



Sign Up for Our Newsletter!

Our office sends out a monthly newsletter where you can find our community updates, grant opportunities, upcoming events and so much more.

Subscribe using the QR code or call our office at (708) 365-8498 to sign up!

Our office, in collaboration with the village of Melrose Park and the Melrose Park Police Department, hosted our first-ever Broadway Nights & Tail Lights event! The event brought our community together to enjoy an evening on Lake Street, support local businesses and check out an incredible showcase of cars from across the Chicagoland area.

Our first event was a great success and we are excited to continue bringing more events like this to our community. We have another upcoming Broadway Nights & Tail Lights event scheduled for Oct. 17. We look forward to continuing to grow this event series and creating more opportunities for our residents, local businesses and car enthusiasts to come together!

**SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
EMANUEL "CHRIS" WELCH
& STATE REPRESENTATIVE
NORMA HERNANDEZ**

invite you to

CELEBRATE

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
10 AM - 1 PM**

**SALSA • CUMBIA
LATIN DANCE INSTRUCTION**

**LOTERÍA
GREAT PRIZES**

**¡COMIDA!
FOOD PROVIDED**

Veterans
Park District's
**BULGER
PARK**
16th and Hirsch St.
Melrose Park

EMANUEL "CHRIS" WELCH
Speaker of the House
7th District
State Representative

NORMA HERNANDEZ
Illinois State Representative
27th District

Hispanic Heritage Month

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, our office, in partnership with the Office of Speaker Welch, is excited to host a special community celebration at Veterans Park District's Bulger Park!

Join us on Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., for a morning filled with music, dancing, delicious food and loteria – also known as bingo! This event is an opportunity to come together as a community, celebrate Hispanic culture and heritage, and enjoy a fun-filled morning with family, friends and neighbors.

We look forward to celebrating with you!



News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

Secretary of State's Office Earns National Recognition for Excellence

First Illinois State Agency Ever to Receive National Recognition for Procurement Excellence

The Illinois Secretary of State's Office has become the first Illinois state agency to ever receive the national Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) Award from the National Procurement Institute. This marks a milestone for the office's ongoing efforts to deliver more efficient, transparent and accountable government for Illinois taxpayers.

The Secretary of State's Office was also the only Illinois government agency recognized with the award in 2026.

Presented annually, the AEP Award recognized the office's Procurement Division for excelling in five core areas: innovation, professional expertise, eProcurement technology, leadership and productivity. The Illinois Secretary of State's Office exceeded the total number of points to qualify for the award, reflecting its commitment to modernizing procurement operations and strengthening accountability.

"Illinois taxpayers deserve a government that spends their dollars wisely, operates efficiently and earns the public's trust," Secretary of State Giannoulias said. "This national recognition reflects our commitment to modernizing government, strengthening accountability and ensuring every procurement decision is transparent and a good value for taxpayers. Being the first Illinois state agency to receive this honor is a testament to the outstanding work of our procurement team."

"We are proud to recognize the Illinois Secretary of State's Office with the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award. Earning this distinction requires an extraordinary commitment to innovation, integrity and continuous improvement of standards that the Secretary of State's Procurement Division has not only met, but exceeded," said Carrie Mathes, AEP officer on the Board of Directors for the National Procurement Institute. "Their leadership in modernizing processes, advancing transparency and elevating professional practice sets a new benchmark for public procurement in Illinois."

The Secretary of State's Office received recognition for numerous initiatives that demonstrate procurement best practices, including:

- Establishing strong governance and accountability measures, including a comprehensive procurement ethics policy, centralized procurement authority and a published procurement manual to ensure consistency and transparency.
- Implementing a continuous improvement program featuring employee and vendor feedback surveys, formal procurement training for staff and educational workshops for vendors.
- Modernizing procurement operations by expanding the use of electronic procurement systems and automated workflows to streamline purchasing and improve efficiency.
- Investing in professional leadership and industry engagement through nationally recognized certifications, leadership roles in procurement organizations and presentations at state and national conferences.
- Expanding cooperative purchasing strategies to maximize value, improve flexibility and ensure responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.

The recognition highlights the Secretary of State's broader modernization agenda, which has focused on replacing outdated, paper-based processes with more efficient digital services while strengthening transparency and operational performance. Through initiatives, such as the One-Stop-Shop customer service model, expanded online services and modernized processes, the office has improved service delivery for residents, businesses and government partners while creating a more efficient and responsive state government.

Giannoulias Launches Campaign Inspiring Illinoisans to Give the Gift of Life

New Statewide Ads Encourage Illinoisans to Become Organ Donors and Leave Behind a Legacy That Saves Lives

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias has launched a new statewide public awareness campaign encouraging Illinoisans to become organ and tissue donors, and pass along something meaningful: the gift of life.

The new campaign airs on broadcast and cable television, radio, digital and social media platforms across Illinois to increase awareness and encourage more residents to join the state's Organ/Tissue Donor Registry.

"We pass down all kinds of things – an old suit, a family recipe or an antique lamp – but nothing can compare to giving someone the chance to live," said Giannoulias, noting more than 4,000 Illinoisans are awaiting transplants. "Becoming an organ donor is a simple decision with an extraordinary impact. It can save a life, change a family forever and create a legacy that lives on through others."

The campaign uses humor to highlight the sometimes questionable gifts and family traditions that are passed down through generations, including an outdated prom suit, an antique lamp and a treasured family recipe. The ads ultimately deliver a powerful message: the most priceless legacy is organ donation – the chance to give someone else the gift of life.

Illinois has one of the largest organ and tissue donor registries in the nation with more than 7 million total current registrants, averaging over 20,000 sign-ups per month across DMV facilities. A single donor can save or improve the lives of up to 25 people.

More than 4,000 Illinoisans are currently waiting for a lifesaving transplant and approximately 300 people die each year while waiting for a transplant.

The Secretary of State's Office maintains Illinois' Organ/Tissue Donor Registry, known as Life Goes On. Illinoisans can register as an organ and tissue donor when obtaining or renewing their driver's license or state ID at an Illinois Secretary of State facility. They can also register online at LifeGoesOn.com or by calling (800) 210-2106.

Giannoulas Urges Parents to Do Their Homework Before Buying an E-Bike for Their Children

New PSA and Online Buying Guide Help Families Choose Safe, Age-Appropriate Devices

As electric bikes become increasingly popular, Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas is urging parents to do their homework before purchasing one for their child, warning that many marketed as e-bikes are actually much faster and more powerful devices that pose safety risks.

To help families make informed choices, Giannoulas released a new public service video as part of the Secretary of State's Ride Safe, Ride Smart, Ride Ready campaign and directs parents to a new online *E-bike Buying Guide* that explains the differences between low-speed e-bikes, high-speed e-bikes and e-motos, outlines Illinois' new proposed safety standards and offers practical tips for selecting a safe, age-appropriate device.

"Parents shouldn't assume every product labeled an 'e-bike' is actually safe and appropriate for kids," Giannoulas said. "Some of these devices can reach highway speeds and are being marketed alongside traditional e-bikes, making it difficult for families to know what they're buying. Spending a few minutes to do your research before making a purchase can keep children safe and prevent serious injuries."

The buying guide encourages parents to:

- Understand the difference between e-bikes and e-motos.
- Verify a device's speed and motor power.
- Understand Illinois' e-bike classifications and age requirements.
- Purchase from reputable retailers.
- Make sure the e-bike properly fits their child.

The guide also warns that some online marketplaces advertise high-speed e-motos as e-bikes, creating confusion for consumers and increasing the risk that parents could unknowingly buy a device that is inappropriate for a young rider.

The PSA and buying guide are part of the secretary of state's broader effort to improve micromobility safety following the General Assembly's approval of Senate Bill 3484, which establishes Illinois' first comprehensive statewide framework for regulating high-speed e-bikes, e-motos and other electric mobility devices. If signed into law, the legislation would take effect on Jan. 1, 2027.

Parents can view the PSA on the secretary of state's YouTube channel – www.youtube.com/@ILSecofState – and access the *E-bike Buying Guide* at the secretary of state's micromobility safety website – www.ilsos.gov/oneroad.

Giannoulas Launches Disability Parking Placard Pilot as New Law Expands Access for Caregivers

New Law Provides Meter-Exempt Parking Relief for Parents and Guardians Transporting Individuals Unable to Drive

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas has launched a pilot program to make disability parking placards easier to obtain as a newly signed law expands accessible parking relief for families caring for children and individuals with disabilities. The law allows the Secretary of State's Office to issue meter-exempt disability parking placards to legal guardians who transport individuals with disabilities who are incapable of driving.

To support the new law and improve customer service, the Secretary of State's Office is expanding in-person disability parking placard services to 14 additional driver services facilities across Illinois. The new walk-in option allows customers to apply for or renew permanent and meter-exempt disability parking placards, reducing processing times for applications that were previously handled exclusively by mail through the Springfield office.

"Families caring for children and individuals with disabilities already face enough challenges – accessing parking while transporting a loved one to medical appointments, therapy, school or other essential services should not be an added burden," Giannoulas said. "This legislation provides meaningful relief for caregivers while making it easier for eligible Illinoisans to obtain the parking placards they need. It's another step toward delivering more accessible, customer-focused services across our state."

Governor JB Pritzker signed House Bill 4843 into law on July 31. The measure took effect immediately.

Previously, meter-exempt parking benefits were available primarily for individuals with disabilities who drive themselves. The new law addresses a long-standing gap by extending eligibility to caregivers who regularly transport individuals with significant disabilities.

The pilot program builds on the existing in-person disability parking placard service offered at the Springfield flagship. Participating driver services facilities include the Chicago flagship, Chicago North, Chicago South, Chicago West, LaSalle, Robinson, Rockford, Champaign, Carbondale, Peoria, Quincy, Moline, Macomb and Granite City.

Meter-exempt parking placards allow eligible individuals to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, such as at malls, grocery stores or retail locations. They also exempt the holder from parking meter fees and time limitations, except where parking is limited to 30 minutes or less.

The provision expanding access to disability parking placards is part of a broader legislative package advanced by Giannoulas to modernize the Illinois Vehicle Code, improve accessibility and strengthen services for Illinois residents.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

State Treasurer Michael Frerichs Will Return a Record Number of Checks to Illinoisans

No Claim Needed – Simply Cash the Check

This summer will bring \$45 million in cash to a record-breaking 600,000 people who will receive money they didn't even know they had from the state's missing money program and the only thing they must do is cash the check, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs said.

The checks are part of the latest round of the Enhanced Money Match Program – which takes the "claim" out of unclaimed property. Treasurer Frerichs' office helps get the check in the mail by leveraging technology to return money to individuals, through I-CASH, the state's unclaimed property initiative. Most of the matched claims in this Enhanced Money Match round equal \$50 or less, though some people can have multiple claims and their checks will amount to much more.

"The first thing we tell people, is this – the money belongs to you, the check is real and this is not a scam," Treasurer Frerichs said. "The second thing we tell them, is to cash the check! Who couldn't use a little extra pocket money?"

The volume of "claim-less" checks is unprecedented. Frerichs' office founded the Enhanced Money Match Program in 2018 and has since returned more than \$130 million to more than 870,000 people. This summer's total of nearly 600,000 checks makes it the largest Money Match ever performed in the nation.

Frerichs' office began mailing notification letters at the end of June. The checks soon follow and hit mailboxes all summer long.

The Enhanced Money Match Program leverages data already collected by partnering state agencies and crossmatches it with the state treasurer's unclaimed property database. The Treasurer's Office matches names and mailing addresses, confirms those, and then sends a letter to the unclaimed property owner that describes the amount and source of the money.

Enhanced Money Match focuses only on straightforward claims that involve cash owed to a single person. It doesn't cover other types of claims, such as those involving cash owned by multiple parties, shares of stocks and bonds, escrow accounts and the contents of bank safe deposit boxes.

Enhanced Money Match is part of the office's Unclaimed Property Program, also known as I-CASH. It is one of the state's oldest consumer protection initiatives. In Illinois, the state treasurer is tasked with safeguarding unclaimed property, such as the contents of overlooked safe deposit boxes, unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards. Illinois holds more than \$5 billion in unclaimed property. More than \$2.3 billion has been returned since Frerichs took office, the most in state history. The state treasurer is legally required to return missing money to its owners or heirs, no matter how long it takes.

To see if you have missing money, check the online database at www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH.

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs Returns Record \$303 Million to People, Businesses, Nonprofits in Fiscal Year 2025 \$200,000 to Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter in Lake County

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

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

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

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

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

I-CASH is one of Illinois' oldest consumer protection initiatives. The Illinois State Treasurer's Office is tasked with safeguarding and returning unclaimed property, including the contents of overlooked safe deposit boxes, unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards. The Illinois treasurer is legally required to return unclaimed property to its owner or heirs, no matter how long it takes.

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

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

The Enhanced Money Match Program is a key driver in this success, taking the "claim" out of unclaimed property by automatically returning money without the need to file a claim after some information is electronically verified.

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

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

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

When the Treasurer's Office's safe deposit boxes fill up, unclaimed items go up for auction after 10 years of private and public attempts to locate the owner or heirs. All auction proceeds are held in perpetuity for the rightful owners or their heirs.

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

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

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office is a powerful economic engine that invests in people to drive prosperity, development and growth throughout the state.

Please visit www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ for more information.



NEWS FROM WALTHER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

WWW. WALTHER.COM

Greetings, Walther Family!

As summer break draws to a close, Walther is preparing to begin its 73rd year. 73 years! We thank God that our ministry has remained strong for such a long period of time, and that we have been able to provide a Christ-centered education all those decades. That is approximately 12,816 school days, 89,712 class periods, 800 football games and 2,736 chapel services. The list goes on. (And please don't check my math – I was an English major.) The point is – Walther has been here sharing the gospel and preparing students for college and life for a really long time.



Tim Bouman

While much has changed, so much has not. We remain a Lutheran school, sharing the good news of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. We operate like a family, where every student is loved and cared for. We encourage all students to take advantage of the rich extracurricular offerings we have to explore their interests, develop their talents, and grow as young men and women.

In a couple short weeks the next chapter will begin. Our seniors will start their final stage while our sixth and ninth graders will begin their Bronco journey. You'll read here throughout the year news of what Walther looks like in 2026, but I can already tell you that it will be a mix of new ventures, programs and people, and the same core values that have guided us since 1954.

Please keep Walther in your prayers – and come visit soon!

Yours in Christ,
Tim Bouman, Head of School

August is Make a Will Month



Bill Koehne

August is Make A Will month. This is a great reminder to review your will or take steps to create one. Many people don't like to think about what will happen here on earth after they pass away. But in reality, creating a will or estate plan is a gift given by you to the people you love. This gift is not just about money, real estate or possessions you will pass on to loved ones. By creating a plan you are laying out clear directions about your wishes, making it easier for loved ones. This can reduce confusion, disagreements and unnecessary stress during an already emotional time, and it eliminates the possibility that a court makes these decisions for you.

Creating a will or trust also provides you with the opportunity to give a special gift to nonprofit organizations that are dear to your heart. Since an estate often includes non-liquid assets such as real estate, life insurance or IRAs, it allows many people the opportunity to give a much larger gift than they ever could have afforded while living. Giving USA 2026 reported that more than \$62B was given to nonprofits through bequests in 2025. That is up nearly 20% from the previous year. Many more people are now seeing this as an opportunity to bless organizations that mean so much to them.

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

AP Scores on the Rise

Spring AP results have arrived and our scores continue to rise. With more than one third of all sophomores, juniors and seniors taking at least one AP course this year, we had our highest AP enrollment this decade. More than 67% of the scores this year were 3 or higher, the level which gives students the potential to earn college credit. This also led to our highest average score this decade, the third consecutive year our average score has risen.

Walther offered eight different AP courses this past school year and our Class of 2026 took advantage. Of our 52 seniors, 24 took an AP course at some point over the last three years. Of these 24...

- 20 earned a score of 3+ on at least one test • 15 took three or more courses • Eight took five or more courses.

We are proud of our students who have pushed themselves academically and achieved at high levels, and we are proud of our teachers whose instruction has led to these improving results!

Updates to Thrivent Choice

Earlier this year, Thrivent Financial made changes to their Thrivent Choice Program. Instead of being restricted to only select clients with membership, now all clients who hold accounts with Thrivent are eligible to direct Choice Dollars to an organization of their choosing. In addition, instead of Choice Dollars being accrued throughout the year, they are now available in full at the start of the year and they are available to direct anytime from January-December.

The process is simple. If you are a client of Thrivent Financial, log in to your account, click on Direct Choice Dollars and select Walther Christian Academy. It costs you nothing, but benefits Walther's ministry.

Walther Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Rebecca Ehretsman, Walther Class of 1990, is the president of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Following Walther, Becky received a BA in movement and sport science from Purdue University and an MS in occupational therapy from Washington University in St. Louis. During her 18 years in St. Louis, she practiced as a certified hand therapist at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, the Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis and Shriner's Hospital for Children. Becky served as a teaching assistant at Washington University immediately upon graduation, transitioning to a full-time faculty role at Maryville University in St. Louis in 2003 and earning her PhD in Education from St. Louis University in 2009. She moved to Concordia University Wisconsin in 2013 where she expanded master's degree programs in occupational therapy and built a post-professional doctorate in upper extremity rehabilitation.

During her tenure at Maryville and Concordia, Becky began traveling with student groups to provide occupational therapy services for children in Nicaragua and Guatemala; work that has continued through her 21st mission to Guatemala this past November. She has been honored with the Nathalie Barr Lectureship Award and the Paul Brand Award for Professional Excellence from the American Society of Hand Therapists, as well as the Humanitarian Award from the American Association for Hand Surgery.



Dr. Rebecca Ehretsman

A move to Elon University in North Carolina in 2017 to become the dean of the School of Health Sciences had her in charge of building nursing programs and accelerated pathway programs to physical therapy and physician assistant studies. Becky also assisted with the institutional response to COVID-19, co-chairing the data team and contributing to university-wide decision making to ensure campus health and safety. In 2022, Dr. Ehretsman was inaugurated as the 22nd president of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Dr. Ehretsman has many accomplishments in her short tenure at Wartburg, including the launch of the Wartburg Commitment, a three-pronged approach to increasing affordability and access in higher education, as well as new graduate programs in health and human performance. She sits on several boards, councils and advisory groups, and recently had her contract extended for a second term.

"My career has been guided by mentors and colleagues who saw more in me than I saw in myself. From the publication of my master's research project to my first board appointment to my leadership trajectory in higher education, I have been blessed with support and opportunity. While becoming a college president wasn't necessarily an aspiration, I believe I am exactly where God intended," Becky shared. Her primary roles as president include strategic planning, fundraising and creating alignment within the senior leadership team that executes the day-to-day operations of the college. On campus, Dr. Ehretsman loves to spend time with students attending concerts, athletic events, and taking time to learn about who they are and their experiences.

"Our forthcoming strategic plan will have a significant emphasis on student flourishing and student success, both during college and after graduation. As a college of the church, we are both rooted in our Lutheran heritage and reaching toward the expansive spiritual needs of our students through wellness, service and the integrative work of vocation. As a small, private college with a supportive local community and alumni base, we surround our students with the people and resources that empower them to be resilient leaders of positive change in our complex world."

"Our tagline at Wartburg is 'Experience More'. It is so similar to my experience at Walther where we were encouraged and able to get involved in so many things. I participated in volleyball, cheerleading, track, choir, Christian Minstrels and student government, including serving as student body president my senior year. Coaches and teachers knew us so well. They challenged and nurtured us in ways that created a richness to our experience."

Favorite memories from her time at Walther include cheering for the boys basketball team at State, float building during Homecoming Week, running in the state finals for the 300m hurdles with her mom as her coach and the choir traditions. "I distinctly remember the soloists for *O Holy Night* from each of my years at Walther. The arrangement Mel Block used is still my favorite version of the song."

"I also learned about vocation from my mom and dad, as well as the teachers at Walther. The idea of committing to something bigger than myself and being responsible to something greater than myself. Having a true calling for my life and work. That has been my guide throughout my professional career, my global outreach and especially during my presidency at Wartburg."

Upcoming Events, Save the Dates!

Saturday, Sept. 12

Walther's Annual Day of Giving (Our 72nd Birthday)

Homecoming – Oct. 9-11

Friday, Oct. 9

Alumni Reception – 6 p.m. • Coronation & Pep Rally – 7:30 p.m. • Post Rally Alumni Reception – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 10

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

Sunday, Oct. 11

Rehearsal and Breakfast for Alumni Instrumentalists and Vocalists – 9 a.m. • Alumni Worship Service at St. Paul, Melrose Park – 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 13

Bronco Benefit

Now is the Time to Plan Your Reunion! Contact Bill Koehne at Walther for Assistance.



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

Senior Fitness Walk – Wednesday, Sept. 2 • 9 a.m.

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

Moderately paced, 1-mile fitness walk. Led by University of Illinois Extension volunteer. Ages 55 and up.

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

Chakra Balancing Gardens – Wednesday, Sept. 2 • 10 a.m.

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

Learn the connection with nature through chakras. Led by Navraaz Kaur Basati from Wandering Paths.

Cost – Free. Contact – (773) 758-8899 • northzoneprogram@cookcountyiil.gov (registration required, call for information).

The Grown-Ups – Thursday, Sept. 3

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

This funny, deeply human play invites audiences to gather close and “lose” themselves in the woods.

Presented with The Tramps. (Begins at sunset.)

Cost – Free. Contact – (773) 758-8899 • northzoneprogram@cookcountyiil.gov (registration required, call for information).

National Wildlife Day – Thursday, Sept. 3 • 11 a.m.

Crabtree Nature Center (3 Stover Rd., Barrington)

Discover and celebrate the wildly wonderful wildlife of Illinois and abroad.

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

Twilight Creations: Open Art Space – Thursday, Sept. 3 • 6 p.m.

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

Musicians, poets and visual artists find inspiration during the twilight hours indoors or outdoors.

Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 366-6530

Sacred Wanderings in Thatcher Woods – Saturday, Sept. 5 • 8:30 a.m.

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

Join Unity Temple of Oak Park as we practice connecting with nature. People with physical challenges are easily accommodated. For information, email mindful@unitytemple.org.

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

Fall Bees – Saturday, Sept. 5 • 1 p.m.

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

Experience fall bees during a guided hike with sweep-netting.

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

Ambassador Animal Species Spotlight – Saturday, Sept. 5 • 2 p.m.

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

Meet one of our reptiles or amphibians and learn about their wild counterparts. Drop in.

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

Autumn Wings – Sunday, Sept. 6 • 10:30 a.m.

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

Join us for a fall walk-and-talk to learn about the wild and amazing life of our native butterflies.

Cost – Free. Contact – (708) 839-6897.

Forest Therapy Walk – Sunday, Sept. 6 • 1 p.m.

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

Enjoy a mindful meditation and guided forest therapy walk. Led by University of Illinois Extension volunteers.

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

Share the Trails: Cycling Pit Stop – Sunday, Sept. 6 • 2:30 p.m.

LaBagh Woods (Cicero Avenue, North of Foster Avenue, Chicago)

Get your helmet fit, tires inflated, bike checked and learn about trail safety. Presented with Ride Illinois. Grove 4.

Cost – Free. Contact – (773) 758-8899 • northzoneprogram@cookcountyiil.gov.

Adaptive Climbing ... Provider Training – Tuesday, Sept. 8 • 9 a.m.

Camp Sullivan (14630 Oak Park Ave., Oak Forest)

A hands-on, skills-based session that equips local providers with the tools, techniques and confidence to safely deliver inclusive climbing experiences for individuals with physical disabilities.

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

Yoga in the Preserves – Wednesday, Sept. 9 • 9:30 a.m.

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

Weekly yoga class for all ages and skill levels. Led by Kim Weber of Be Lightfooted.

Cost – Free. Contact – (773) 758-8899 • northzoneprogram@cookcountyil.gov (registration required, call for information).

Plant and Paddle – Wednesday, Sept. 9 • 9:30 a.m.

Kickapoo Woods (Halsted Street, South of 144th Street, Riverdale)

Help restore habitat by planting native species from canoes. Presented with Friends of the Chicago River.

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

Autumn Equinox Celebration – Thursday, Sept. 10 • 10 a.m.

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

Experience the health benefits of being in nature with guided forest meditation. Led by Gayle Byck from InTune with Nature.

Cost – Free. Contact – (773) 758-8899 • northzoneprogram@cookcountyil.gov (registration required, call for information).

Faire at the Square-Drop-in Featured – Thursday, Sept. 10 • 4 p.m.

Cummings Square (536 N. Harlem Ave., River Forest)

Enjoy our "creative-reuse carnival" with themed games made from repurposed materials! Win prizes and learn about local plants and animals.

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

Bird Walk – Saturday, Sept. 12 • 8 a.m.

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

Join a naturalist as we look for local birds. A limited supply of binoculars available for loan at select events. Led by John Elliot from Chicago Bird Alliance.

Cost – Free.

Kayak the Des Plaines – Saturday, Sept. 12 • 9 a.m.

Schuth's Grove (Cermak Road, West of Des Plaines Avenue, Near Riverside)

Kayak 3 miles, from Schuth's Grove to Plank Road Meadow. Equipment, shuttle provided. Beginners welcome.

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

Fall Nature Fest – Saturday, Sept. 12 • Noon

LaBagh Woods (Cicero Avenue, North of Foster Avenue, Chicago)

Engage with local environmental groups and businesses while enjoying food, games, Jesse White Tumblers and animal ambassadors. Groves 1-4.

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

2027 Indoor Event Permits Now Available

Got big plans for 2027? Host your event with us! Our indoor rental venues are affordable and convenient for all event types. Whether you're planning a wedding, corporate meeting, birthday party, family reunion or special gathering, we have the perfect setting for you. Choose from beautifully restored historic buildings or modern, energy-efficient spaces with composting receptacles – each nestled in scenic natural surroundings. Let us help you make memories that last and reserve your indoor venue with the Forest Preserves!

Nestled in serene forests in Chicago and its suburbs, the Forest Preserves of Cook County's five indoor event venues offer scenic views and beautiful spaces for your next wedding, party, banquet, celebration, corporate work retreat – or any outing. For inquiries regarding these indoor event locations, call (773) 558-2003 or email info@forestpreserveevents.com.

2027 Indoor Event Pavilion Rentals

Applications are now being accepted. Requests will be processed in the order received on a first-come, first-served basis and must be submitted to info@forestpreserveevents.com. We look forward to helping you host a memorable event!

For more information and to make a reservation, visit <https://fpdcc.com/things-to-do/indoor-events/>.

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!

Thank You for Your Support!
We're Celebrating Member Appreciation Month with exclusive weekly thank you specials and a month-long raffle.
Every week brings something new, so be sure to stop by often!
Present your valid membership to receive these member-exclusive offers.

Friday, Sept. 4-Thursdays, Sept. 10

Free Tote Bag – Receive a complimentary Brookfield Zoo Chicago tote bag while supplies last. Limit one per member household.

Friday, Sept. 11-Thursdays, Sept. 17

Free Guest with Every Visit – Bring one guest with you on every visit during the week. Membership levels that already include a guest benefit may bring one additional guest.

Friday, Sept. 18-Thursdays, Sept. 24

20% Off Retail Purchases – Enjoy 20% off your purchases at zoo gift shops throughout the week. This exclusive discount cannot be combined with other discounts, offers or promotions. Discount valid at Coast Gift Shop, South Gate Market, Bear Crossing, North Gate Market or Dolphin Bay Gift Shop.

Friday, Sept. 25-Wednesday, Sept. 30

Exclusive Thank-You Gift – Pick up your free member appreciation gift, while supplies last.

Plus, enjoy Animal Ambassadors in the Pavilions during the final weekend of Member Appreciation Month

Every Visit Earns an Entry!

Every zoo visit in September automatically earns your member household one raffle entry. Simply have your membership scanned at the entrance each time you visit. Three member households will be selected to receive one of these prizes.

- A one-year Adventurer Family Premier Membership.
- A Wild Connections experience.
- Ten General Admission Passes.

Every visit gives you another raffle entry – and another opportunity to enjoy the animals, connect with nature and make lasting memories at Brookfield Zoo Chicago.

For additional information, please visit www.brookfieldzoo.org/events/member-appreciation-month.

Join Us for These Exciting Featured Events!

First Responders Day – Thank You First Responders! Zoowide/Sunday, Sept. 13 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m. • All Ages

Join us in celebrating and showing appreciation for firefighters, police officers, emergency medical services workers and other first responders with a day of special activities!

Activities Include:

- Meet and greet with dogs from local K-9 units.
- Touch a Truck experiences and demonstrations.
- Ceremonial parade at 11 a.m., featuring bagpipes.
- Meet representatives from up to 50 local agencies and organizations.
- Tickets included with zoo admission.

For more information, visit <https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/events/first-responders-day>.



Oktoberfest – Prost! to Oktoberfest East Mall/Saturday, Sept. 19 and Sunday, Sept. 20 10 a.m.-5 p.m. • All Ages

Enjoy German-style, family-friendly fun with music, dancing, games and more!

This event features:

- Bratwurst.
- Specialty beer.
- Pretzels with cheese.
- Festive-themed giveaways.
- And much more!
- Tickets included with zoo admission.

For more information, visit <https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/events/oktoberfest>.



Hispanic Heritage Fest – ¡Celebra con Nosotros! Zoowide/Saturday, Sept. 26 • 10 a.m.-6 p.m. All Ages

Delight in live music, vibrant cultural performances and interactive experiences for all ages – all included with your zoo admission for a full day of celebration!

Stroll through the zoo while enjoying festive entertainment, special activities and opportunities to learn more about the rich traditions and cultures being celebrated.

Plus, this special event is free with your zoo membership or regular admission, making it the perfect time to gather family and friends for an unforgettable day

- Tickets included with zoo admission.

For more information, visit <https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/events/hispanic-heritage-fest>.



BOO! at the Zoo – Trick or Treat at the Zoo! Zoowide/Oct. 3-25 Weekdays: 10 a.m.-5 p.m./Weekends: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. All Ages

Get ready for a boo-tiful day of Halloween fun at BOO! at the Zoo, Brookfield Zoo Chicago's family-friendly, fall tradition! Enjoy festive décor, not-so-scary surprises, and seasonal fun for ghosts and ghouls of all ages.

Best of all, admission is free with zoo membership.

Put on your favorite costume and experience the zoo like never before this Halloween season!

- Tickets included with zoo admission.

For more information, visit <https://www.brookfieldzoo.org/events/boo-at-the-zoo>.



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 Celebrates 10 Years of Workforce Development with Chicago Community Build Event

Participants Built Beds for Children in Need as Part of Ongoing Tools of the Trade Program

ComEd recently celebrated 10 years of its Tools of the Trade Program with a community bed build event in Chicago, Illinois, where participants gathered to build beds for children in need. Throughout the day, 30 young adults ages 17-19 built 25 beds to be donated to St. Joseph's Bed Ministry. Combined with a bed build event in Rockford on July 15, where 15 young adults built an additional 30 beds, this year's Tools of the Trade participants have assembled more than 55 beds for children in need. This marks the fourth year of ComEd's partnership with St. Joseph's Bed Ministry, which has provided more than 240 beds for children across northern Illinois.

Tools of the Trade introduces young adults to career pathways in the energy and utility industry through hands-on project experience, opportunities for professional development, access to keynote speakers and community service initiatives. Events like the bed build in Chicago also provide participants with opportunities to apply their skills outside the classroom while supporting local communities, an important component of the Tools of the Trade experience.



New this year, the program expanded its offerings to include CDL Permit Awareness Training, which presents participants with the requirements and career opportunities in commercial driving, as well as Construction and Skilled Trades (CAST) Test preparation. The program concluded with a graduation ceremony at the Oakbrook Commercial Center to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates and recognize their growth throughout the program.

"At ComEd, we're committed to helping young adults in our community feel confident about their futures. Programs like Tools of the Trade give participants the chance to explore career paths in the energy industry while learning real skills that they may not have had access to before," said Melissa Washington, senior vice president of Government, Regulatory and External Affairs at ComEd. "We're always looking for ways to grow and strengthen this program so we can support more students as they take their next steps. It's incredibly rewarding to see young people gain the confidence and direction they need to pursue meaningful careers."

ComEd partnered with educators, community organizations and workforce development programs across northern Illinois to recruit participants for Tools of the Trade. Recruitment efforts included partnerships with local career and technical education (CTE) programs, as well as Squared Away Construction, which helped connect participants from YouthBuild Rockford and Chicago. Throughout the seven-week program, students attended immersive classroom sessions five days a week at ComEd training centers, where they developed technical knowledge, professional skills and firsthand exposure to careers in the energy and utility industry.

"Squared Away Construction is deeply committed to expanding workforce development opportunities for young people," said Raymond Fleming, founder and CEO of Squared Away Construction. "Programs like Tools of the Trade give teens the opportunity to explore career pathways and build confidence in their futures. We're proud to partner with ComEd and look forward to continuing this important work together."

Earlier this year, Fox Valley Career Center instructor Clayton Hansen participated in the program's Exploration Workshop for Teachers, which provides educators with exposure to careers in the energy industry and workforce development opportunities for their students. Hansen later brought students to a Discovery Workshop, where they gained hands-on exposure to utility careers and energy industry opportunities. Following the workshop, two of his students were accepted into the 2026 Tools of the Trade Program.

"Tools of the Trade provided my students with a chance to explore careers with ComEd and in electrical distribution that isn't possible in my electrical systems classroom. Every student found the day to be relevant and impactful," said Clayton Hansen, electrical systems and HVAC instructor at Fox Valley Career Center. "After participating in one of the program's discovery workshops, it became clear that this had a positive impact on my students. I'm proud to see two of them taking part this summer and look forward to seeing how it will help shape their futures."

With more than 150,000 clean energy jobs expected to be added in Illinois by 2050, ComEd continues to build a strong pipeline of local, diverse and qualified talent through a variety of STEM and skilled trades education and training programs. The Center for Energy Workforce Development estimated that 32 million people will be hired in the energy industry in the next decade, highlighting a growing demand for a highly skilled workforce. Programs like Tools of the Trade play a key role in preparing young adults to meet that demand.

In addition to Tools of the Trade, ComEd also supports programs such as CONSTRUCT Infrastructure Youth Academy, Power Up Academy and the Market Development Initiative. These workforce development programs are designed to give participants hands-on experience, industry knowledge and career exposure while helping prepare them for the future energy workforce.

For more information about ComEd's workforce development and career training programs, please go to www.ComEd.com/CleanEnergyJobs.

ComEd Programs Help Hundreds of Thousands of Northern Illinois Small Businesses Cut Costs and Save Energy

ComEd's Small Business Offering Saved Businesses \$262 Million in Annual Energy Costs,

As small-business owners face rising operating costs, ComEd is marking a major milestone: more than 100,000 small businesses across northern Illinois have completed free facility assessments. Energy-saving improvements made through these assessments have helped participating businesses save \$262.8 million annually on energy costs, supported by \$607 million in incentives to offset the cost of upgrades.

To mark the milestone, ComEd joined small-business owners and local elected officials in Elmhurst, Illinois, to highlight the value of facility assessments, which include an in-person site visit to identify energy-saving projects and potential incentives.

"Small businesses are an indispensable part of our local neighborhoods, providing jobs and contributing to the vibrancy of our communities," said Gil Quiniones, ComEd president and CEO. "We're extremely proud that our EE Program is lowering costs for small businesses, enhancing their financial security and improving local air quality."

Facility assessments are part of the award-winning ComEd Energy Efficiency (EE) Program, which also offers instant discounts, rebates, technical services and whole-building solutions to help families, businesses and public-sector customers reduce energy use and save money on electric bills.

Since 2015, small-business customers that completed facility assessments have saved 2.2 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy, helping avoid nearly 1.7 billion pounds of carbon emissions that contribute to climate change. That is equivalent to planting more than 750,000 acres of trees or taking 176,000 cars off the road for one year. Eligible small-business customers include restaurants, grocery stores and churches with peak energy demand below 500 kilowatts. A full list of qualifying businesses and available EE offerings is available at ComEd.com/SmallBiz.

"At a time when small businesses are managing rising costs and tighter margins, programs like the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program are among the most practical tools we have to help them stay competitive," said State Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton. "The free facility assessments and incentives give business owners a clear path to lower their energy use and their monthly bills, while supporting the broader clean energy goals we have set for Illinois."

Small businesses face financial pressures that differ from those of households and large corporations. With tighter margins and limited reserves, many owners need immediate cash relief. Reliable reductions in energy costs help small businesses better plan for future expansion in resources and staff.

While the benefits of the ComEd EE Program are felt across northern Illinois, participation has been especially strong in District 23, which includes Elmhurst. Since 2015, nearly 4,000 local businesses have completed EE upgrades, receiving more than \$24 million in incentives while saving more than \$13 million in annual costs and 100 million kWh of energy. The energy savings are equivalent to planting more than 35,000 acres of trees or taking more than 8,000 cars off the road for one year.

"Small businesses across DuPage County are navigating real financial pressures, from rising energy supply costs to tighter margins on every sale," said Greg Bedalov, president and CEO of Choose DuPage. "The ComEd Energy Efficiency Program gives businesses a path to long-term savings through free facility assessments and incentives that cover most of the cost of upgrades. Together, these programs give our small businesses the support they need to focus on what they do best, which is serving their customers and growing in our communities."

Joe's Auto & Truck Repair is a family-operated shop that services cars and light-duty trucks for both individual drivers and businesses. In 2025, the shop took advantage of a ComEd facility assessment to install lighting retrofits and compressed-air system upgrades, earning more than \$3,000 in incentives and an estimated savings of nearly 13,000 kWh of electricity.

"Joe's Auto & Truck Repair has been part of the Elmhurst community since 1983, and every dollar we save is a dollar we can reinvest into our team and our customers," said Robert Stobienia, director, Joe's Auto and Truck Repair. "Through the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program, we were able to upgrade our lighting and compressed air system with incentives that made the improvements easy to take on. The result has been immediate savings on our monthly energy bills and the confidence of knowing our shop is running more efficiently for years to come. I would encourage every small business in the area to look into what ComEd's program can do for them."

Long- and Short -Term Solutions for Small-Business Customers

Small business facility assessments are among the long-term solutions ComEd offers to help businesses across northern Illinois save money and energy. In the short term, for businesses in need of relief from current bills and past-due balances, ComEd recently extended last year's Customer Relief Fund. Backed by Exelon, ComEd's parent company, the \$2.5 million fund provides a one-time matching grant of up to \$500 to eligible small- and medium-sized business customers in ComEd's northern Illinois service territory. To qualify, businesses must use less than 500 kilowatts, have an active ComEd commercial-meter account and a past-due balance, and have no unpaid tampering fees or bankruptcy filing. Home-based businesses are not eligible.

Grant applications, administered by Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago, must be submitted online at ComEd.com/SMBRelief. Phone applications will not be accepted.

Together, these efforts demonstrate ComEd's commitment to The Exelon Promise, Exelon's customer-focused strategy to deliver immediate relief, strong protections and long-term solutions for rising energy costs.



Village of Melrose Park

Dial A Ride Program for MP Residents

Mayor Serpico encourages residents to use this convenient transportation resource for their everyday needs, such as shopping, doctor appointments, etc.

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.



Call (708) 343-7047 for service.

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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
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

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

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

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

**The Illinois
Secretary of State Office
is located at
1903 N. Mannheim Rd.
Melrose Park.**
**For more information,
visit www.ilsos.gov.**

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

Alexi Giannoulas
Secretary of State



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: 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: Sept. 28; Oct. 26; Nov. 23; and Dec. 28.

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

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Two Loyola Medicine Hospitals Included in Becker's Hospital Review's List of Great Community Hospitals

Loyola Medicine's Gottlieb Memorial Hospital and MacNeal Hospital have been included in Becker's Hospital Review's list of '100 great community hospitals' for 2026.

"This honor reflects the strength of our teams, the trust of our communities and our shared mission to serve with excellence," said Shawn P. Vincent, president and CEO of Loyola Medicine. "It's a wonderful acknowledgment of our colleagues who play a vital role in creating a healing environment where patients feel supported and receive the highest standard of care."



www.loyolamedicine.org

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, Melrose Park, Illinois – Recognized for Exceptional Care

Gottlieb's recognition highlights the hospital's first Magnet recognition for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a distinction held by fewer than 10% of U.S. hospitals, and the Hip and Knee Replacement Program which was designated a "Blue Distinction Center+" by Blue Cross Blue Shield that same year. Also in 2025, the hospital received laboratory accreditation with exemplary status from the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine, the highest level of recognition an electrodiagnostic laboratory can achieve. In addition, its skilled Nursing Unit and acute inpatient rehabilitation programs achieved the highest level of accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.



MacNeal Hospital, Berwyn, Illinois – Recognized for Exceptional Care

MacNeal Hospital was recognized for more than a century of clinical excellence, innovation and community leadership. In August 2024, the hospital received a Magnet with Distinction designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, which is awarded to only the top 1% of hospitals nationwide. The hospital earned the Get With The Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Award from the American Heart Association in 2025, received Blue Distinction Center+ recognition from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois for both maternal medicine, and hip and knee replacement care, and was recognized as a Meritorious Performer by the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program in 2025, placing it among only 43 hospitals in the nation to achieve that distinction. In January 2026, the hospital opened its newly renovated pulmonary rehabilitation service line.

Two Loyola Hospitals Achieve National Recognition for Commitment to Excellence in Cardiovascular Care

Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC) and Loyola Medicine's MacNeal Hospital have earned the American Heart Association Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus with Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Quality Achievement Award for demonstrating a commitment to following up-to-date, research-based guidelines for the treatment of heart disease and stroke, helping save lives, support recovery and reduce hospital readmissions. The AHA also named LUMC and MacNeal to its Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll.

LUMC and MacNeal Hospital Recognized for Advanced Care in Treating Heart Disease, Stroke and Diabetes

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

Heart disease and stroke are the No. 1 and No. 4 causes of death in the United States, respectively, according to the *American Heart Association's 2026 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics Report*. Studies show patients can experience better outcomes when care teams consistently follow evidence-based treatment guidelines.

Loyola Medicine Hospitals Have Demonstrated an Unwavering Commitment to Quality Patient Care

Get With The Guidelines puts the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest science-backed guidelines. As a participant in the Get With The Guidelines programs, LUMC and MacNeal qualified for the awards by demonstrating a sustained commitment to improving the quality of cardiovascular care.

"At Loyola Medicine, our mission is to provide exceptional care that helps patients achieve the best possible outcomes," said Shawn P. Vincent, president and CEO of Loyola Medicine. "We are honored to have two of our hospitals recognized for excellence in the treatment of heart failure, stroke and type 2 diabetes. This recognition highlights the unwavering commitment of our care teams to delivering timely, compassionate and evidence-based care when patients need it most."

"These awards reflect Loyola Medicine's commitment to caring for people in their community who need cardiovascular care," said Karen E. Joynt Maddox, M.D., MPH, chair of the American Heart Association Quality Oversight Committee. "By following the American Heart Association's quality improvement protocols, Loyola can help advance our shared vision of better patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates — a win for patients, families and health care systems."

Nicor Gas Highlights Safe Digging on National 811 Day



Nicor Gas is reminding homeowners, contractors and communities across Northern Illinois to prioritize safety by contacting 811 before beginning any digging project. National 811 Day, observed each year on Aug. 11, highlights the importance of knowing what's below before breaking ground.

Whether planting trees, installing a fence, building a deck or completing larger excavation work, even small digging projects can result in damage to underground utility lines if proper precautions are not taken.

"At Nicor Gas, safety is at the center of everything we do," said Pat Whiteside, senior vice president of operations at Nicor Gas. "National 811 Day serves as an important reminder that every digging project – no matter the size – begins with contacting 811. Taking this simple, free step helps protect people, property and the critical underground infrastructure our communities rely on every day."

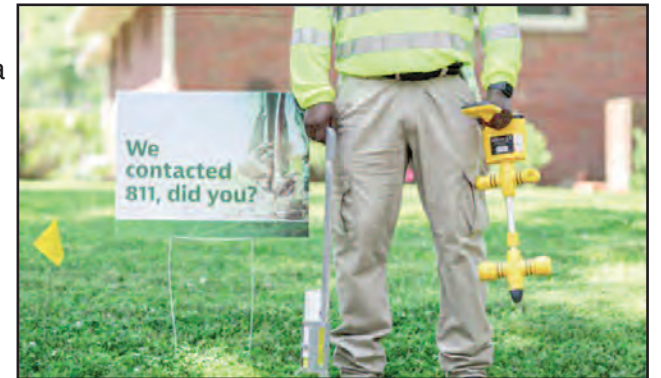
Despite ongoing awareness efforts, millions of Americans still plan digging projects each year without contacting 811 first, increasing the risk of utility damage, service interruptions, personal injury and costly repairs.

To help promote safe digging, Nicor Gas encourages everyone to dig with CARE:

- Call or click before you dig – Always contact JULIE, Illinois' one call center, by dialing 811 or visiting illinois1call.com at least three business days before starting any digging project. This free service ensures underground utility lines, including natural gas, electric, water, sewer and telecommunications lines, are properly marked.
- Allow time for marking – After submitting a request, wait for professional locators to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines using color-coded paint or flags. Yellow indicates natural gas facilities.
- Respect the marks – Use only hand tools when digging near marked utility lines to help prevent accidental damage.
- Excavate carefully – Keep utility markings visible throughout your project. If markings become faded or are disturbed, contact 811 to have them refreshed.

If a natural gas line is damaged or if you smell natural gas, which is often described as a rotten-egg odor, leave the area immediately. Then call 911 and the Nicor Gas emergency line at 1-888-642-6748.

For more information about safe digging and natural gas safety, visit nicorgas.com/811.



Nicor Gas Opens Applications for Education and Workforce Development Grants

Nicor Gas recently opened grant applications under its pillar of Education and Workforce Development. Applications are available at www.NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving through Sept. 30, with funding decisions by the end of October. Selected nonprofits and community organizations will be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in grant funds this year.



The Education and Workforce Development pillar primarily supports secondary and post-secondary educational opportunities, as well as technical/vocational programs. Nicor Gas values partnerships that align with the company's workforce development initiatives: improving awareness of careers in energy and helping to develop a qualified workforce. Nicor Gas supports a broad range of education-related programs, including but not limited to:

- Skill building and job training programs.
- Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs and initiatives.
- Access to post-secondary education opportunities
- Mentoring and tutoring programs.

"Strong communities are built when education and workforce development create clear pathways to opportunity. By investing in learners, job readiness and skills training, we can empower individuals to achieve economic mobility while strengthening the future workforce our communities and industries depend on," said Jackie Nagel, manager of Community Engagement at Nicor Gas.

Last year, the company provided grant support to 23 organizations, including:

- Career and Networking Center – Supports job seekers with career coaching, mentorship and skill-building workshops.
- Sparkforce – Supports summer manufacturing camps for students ages 12-16.
- West Cook County Youth Club – Supports an after-school program promoting strong study habits and STEM programming

To submit an application for an education and workforce development grant, visit <https://www.nicorgas.com/company/about-us/charitable-giving/pillars-of-giving.html>.

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

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

Obituaries

Bennici

Patrizia Bennici, April 18, 1969-July 1, 2026. Loving mother of Paolo (Gabriella Caricola) Faso, Anthony Faso, Daniella (Giuseppe) Pulvino and Gina (Steven Ugalde) Faso; cherished nonna of Francesca Pulvino; loving daughter of Gina Bennici; dear sister of Anna, Maurice and Lucio; loving ex-wife of Giovanni Faso; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Entombment All Saints Cemetery.

Bishof

Mary K. Bishof, Feb. 10, 1955-May 28, 2026. Mary K. Bishof, age 71, born in Chicago, passed away peacefully on May 28, 2026, in Bartlett, Tennessee.

Mary was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 50 years, James R. Bishof Sr., as well as her brothers – Sam Cochiaro Jr. and John Cochiaro.

She is lovingly remembered by her three sons – James R. Bishof Jr. (Tammy), Justin Bishof (Christi) and Jeff Bishof (Sarah). She was a proud and devoted grandmother to Haley, Hunter and Alexis, and was overjoyed to become the great-grandmother of Edward James. She was blessed with four bonus grandchildren – Bethany (Patrick), Britney (Brandon), Tyler and Eric Jr.; and great-grandmother to Blakely and Bryleigh.

Mary is survived by her siblings – Joe Cochiaro (Julie), Jim Cochiaro (Liz), Donna Wojciechowski (Tom), Joan Keenan (Mike), Susan Swaback, Mike Cochiaro (Teo), Cathy Russ (Jim) and Chris Cochiaro; along with many cherished nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends.

A woman of deep faith, Mary was a devoted Catholic whose beliefs guided her throughout her life. As the wife of a military serviceman, she embraced the sacrifices and adventures of military life with grace, resilience and unwavering dedication to her family. She created a loving home wherever life took them and was a constant source of strength, compassion and support for those around her.

Mary will be remembered for her kind heart, quiet strength, steadfast faith and unconditional love for her family. Her greatest joy was caring for those she loved and her legacy lives on through the generations she helped shape.

Though she will be deeply missed, her family finds comfort in knowing she rests peacefully in the presence of the Lord.

May her memory be eternal.

Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment All Saints Cemetery.

Cardenas

Ana Maria Cardenas, Sept. 3, 1966-Aug. 6, 2026. Beloved daughter of the late Victoria and Antonio Cardenas, passed away peacefully on Aug. 6, 2026, after a long and difficult battle with cancer.

Ana was a loving mother, sister, aunt, partner and friend. She was fun, kind and caring, and she could talk to just about anyone. She loved having conversations with the people she knew, sharing stories, and making those around her feel comfortable and welcomed. Her warmth and personality made her unforgettable.

She was the loving mother of Juliana (David); sister of Martha, Maria, Griselda, Alejandra and Norma, and of the late Salvador; longtime partner of Enrique; dog mom to Milo; and proud granddog mom to Benji and Daisy.

She fought hard throughout her illness with courage and strength. She will be deeply missed and forever loved. We find comfort knowing she is no

longer in pain and is finally at peace.

May she rest peacefully in the arms of God. Her memory, her stories and her beautiful spirit will live forever in our hearts. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Carpino

John A. Carpino, June 21, 1945-Aug. 17, 2026, of Melrose Park for more than 50 years, passed away peacefully on Monday, Aug. 17, 2026, in the tranquility of his own home at the golden age of 81. Beloved husband of Darlene (nee Scarpelli) for a loving 59 years; devoted father of Eugene (Gia) and Anthony Carpino; loving son of the late Eugene and the late Josephine (nee Loverde) Carpino; fond grandfather of Eugene F. Jr. and Sofia Rose Carpino; dear brother of the late Roslyn (the late Edward) Menard, the late LaVerne (the late Leroy) Condon, the late Dolores (the late Charles) Abruzzini, the late Marlyn (John “Jack”) Williams and the late Darlene (the late Wayne) Kessling; dear uncle, great-uncle and great-great-uncle to many. Arrangements by Russo’s Hillside Chapels. Interment Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Cassara

Luigia "Gina" Cassara, Aug. 29, 1940-July 1, 2026. Beloved wife of the late Francesco "Frank" Cassara; loving mother of Maria Cassara and the late Fred (the late Susanne) Cassara; beloved daughter of the late Francesco and the late Antonina LaRosa; cherished nonna of Giovanni (Alexandra) Incandela, Francesco (Alexa Wasson) Incandela and Antonio (Heather) Incandela; proud great-grandmother of Isaiah, Isaac and Elias Incandela; dear sister of Antonina (the late Antonino), Salvatore (Caterina), Maria (Guy) and the late Michele (Tina); loving sister-in-law of Tony; cherished aunt, cousin and friend to many.

Luigia was born in Acquedolci, Sicily, Italy, where she grew up with her future husband, Francesco. As Francesco and his family prepared to immigrate to the United States in pursuit of a better life, Luigia, age 14, and Francesco, age 16, became engaged before his departure. Five years later, he returned to Sicily and married the love of his life. Together, they began their married life in Chicago, Illinois.

Luigia worked as a seamstress for several boutiques. She and Francesco raised two children, Fred and Maria, and she devoted her life to nurturing her family and caring for their home. She enjoyed cooking and was especially known for her homemade bread and pizza. Luigia cherished spending time with her grandchildren, sharing with them her Sicilian culture and traditions while creating countless treasured memories together. One of Gina's greatest blessings was watching her grandchildren grow into adulthood, celebrate their marriages and see her oldest grandchild welcome children of his own, filling her heart with immeasurable pride and joy. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Mausoleum.

Falco

Sam Falco, July 10, 1952-June 4, 2026. On June 4, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family, Sam Falco passed away in Brooksville, Florida, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, adventure, laughter and devotion to those he loved most. He was 73 years old.

Born on July 10, 1952, in Chicago, Illinois, Sam grew up in Melrose Park alongside his parents and three siblings. He attended Mount Carmel Grade School and later graduated from Proviso East High School. From an early age, he possessed a competitive spirit and a passion for sports, especially hockey. As a young man, he pursued that passion wholeheartedly, even living

in Canada while playing the sport he loved. Although an injury ultimately ended his hockey career, it never diminished his determination or zest for life.

Throughout his life, Sam embraced new opportunities and built a remarkable career. He worked at The Chicago Stadium and the US Department of Agriculture before finding his true professional calling in the automotive industry. Over the course of 50 years, he became a respected figure in automotive sales and marketing. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish his own marketing company, where he traveled around the country conducting super sale events and creating successful marketing campaigns for automobile dealerships. His work ethic, charisma and ability to connect with people earned him countless friendships and professional relationships.

While he was proud of his professional accomplishments, nothing brought him greater joy than his family. For 40 years, he shared a loving partnership with his devoted wife Sherry, building a life filled with memories, laughter and unwavering support. Together they raised three children, whom he loved deeply and supported wholeheartedly. Whether offering advice, sharing stories or simply enjoying time together, he cherished every moment spent with his family.

Outside of work, he enjoyed spending time on the golf course, casting a line while fishing and making memories with those he loved. He never met a stranger and had a remarkable ability to light up any room he entered. His outgoing personality, quick wit, and generous heart made him a friend to many and a beloved presence wherever he went.

He was preceded in death by his father Joseph, mother Eda (Pennacchio), mother-in-law and father-in-law – Rita (Matusiak) and John Michalak.

He is survived by his loving wife Sheryl, his daughter Deana and son-in-law Moe LaPlatney, his son Sam and daughter-in-law Jackie, his daughter Sara, his brother Joe (Chris), his sisters – Gail (Mike) Dioguardi and Nancy (Mike) Gatto, sister-in-law Lyn (late Thomas) Rubalcave, brother-in-law John (Janine) Michalak, along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members and countless friends whose lives were enriched by knowing him.

Above all, he will be remembered as a loving husband, father, brother, uncle and friend. His life was one filled with purpose, adventure and love, and his memory will continue to live on in the stories shared, lessons taught and lives touched by his remarkable journey. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Giamarusti

Rita T. Giamarusti, March 12, 1947-June 28, 2026. Rita Giamarusti, nee Morella, passed away on Sunday, June 28, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She is survived by her daughter Alicia Giamarusti, her twin sister Ada Marie Morella, her brother Reno Francis (Jenelle) Morella and sister Mary Alice (Graziano) (fiancé Michael Giammanco), and preceded in death by twin brothers – the late Reno John and Francis Anthony Morella. She was the loving daughter of her parents – the late Reno L. and late Ada DiDomenico Morella; loving aunt of Marie (Richard) Strezo, Celina Graziano, Renee Marino, Dana (Jason) Pozzi, Kendra (Adam) Malone and Reno G. (Alli) Morella; loving great-aunt to Jenna Marie, Santino, Francesca, Isaiah, Grace, Dominic, Joy, Vincent, Anthony, Gemma, Jaxson, Reno L., Henry, Bonnie, Dario and Mia. Arrangements by Russo’s Hillside Chapels. Interment private.

Giordano

Nicholas Giordano, Aug. 27, 1961-May 8, 2026. The family of Nicholas Christopher Giordano, age 64, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, announces his peaceful passing on May 8, 2026. Nicholas was born on Aug. 27, 1961.

Nick worked in the construction industry and had a deep love for the beach, especially watching the sunrise and sunset. In his spare time, he generously volunteered to help keep the beaches clean. Nick loved his

family deeply and was known as a kind, caring friend to everyone he met.

He is survived by his mother Agatha Giordano; his siblings – Michael, Phillip (Linda) and Gina (James); his nieces and nephews – Nicole, Gabriella, Jamie, Michael, Dominick, Phillip, Nicholas and Carmen; and his great-nieces and great-nephew – Mia, Sophia, Nicolette and Santino.

Nick will be remembered for his kind heart, his love of family and the joy he found in the beauty of the ocean. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Guzman

Manuel Villagomez Guzman, Feb. 7, 1931-July 4, 2026. Dearly beloved husband of the late Ofelia Ramirez Villagomez; loving father of Alma Rosa Villagomez, Laura Villagomez, Luis Manuel Villagomez, Marco Antonio Villagomez and Jose Luis Villagomez; cherished grandfather of Sugeyll Dorantes, Laura Lopez, Sandra Lopez, Melissa Villagomez, Dinora Villagomez, William Villagomez, Jose Luis Villagomez, Marco Antonio Villagomez, Kate Villagomez, Xavier Villagomez, Alexander Gallegos Jr. and Katherine Villagomez; cherished great-grandfather of 19; dear brother of Armando Villagomez, Abigail Villagomez, Racquel Villagomez and Josefina Villagomez; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Longo

Carmine Longo, July 26, 1942-July 1, 2026. Dearly beloved husband of Santa Longo; loving father of Carmen (Annie) Longo, Joseph Longo and Christy Longo; dear brother of Biagio (the late Rita), Luigi (Francesca) and Patrizia; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

Manzo

Robert Manzo, June 9, 1950-Aug. 8, 2026. Beloved son of the late Philip and Ann Manzo; cherished brother of Patricia (Joe) Serpico, Phillip Manzo, and Ken (Tammy) Manzo; beloved uncle of Natalie Manzo; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

Markello

Josephine Markello, March 30, 1931-July 25, 2026. Dearly beloved wife of the late Thomas Markello; loving mother of Debra (Jeanne Reder) Markello; loving American mother to Editha (Irvin Cottrell) Advincula; dear sister of the late Michael (Ann) Sperando, James (Mary) Sperando, Frances (Frank) Yorcis, Joseph Sperando, Angelo (Lee) Sperando, Gus Sperando, Rose (Bud) Jones, Jennie (Roscoe) Garland and Mary (Raymond) Lesus; cherished aunt, cousin, godmother and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Markese

Paul M. Markese, Dec. 6, 1933-Aug. 8, 2026, age 92, a resident of Melrose Park, Illinois, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026. He was born Dec. 6, 1933, to Michael and Mary Markese.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, veteran and man of faith, Paul leaves behind a legacy of love, service and unwavering devotion to his family. Paul was preceded in death by his wife of 43 years, Mary; his brothers Ralph Markese (Helen) and Edward Markese (Mary); and his sister Madeline Rozzi.

Paul was born and raised in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He proudly served as a staff sergeant in the United States Air Force during the Korean War with the 28th Reconnaissance Bombardment Wing, working in intelligence operations. His service to his country was recognized with the National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal and the Korean Service Medal. His commitment to service continued throughout his life – not only to his country, but to his family, his church and his community.

Paul was a devoted husband to his beloved wife Mary Markese. For more than 10 years, he lovingly cared for Mary as she lived with Alzheimer’s disease. His dedication to her was a profound expression of his love and commitment, and he remained by her side through the difficult years, caring for her with patience, dignity and compassion.

His greatest joy was his family. He was a loving father to Cari (Tom) and Paul (Beth), and a proud grandfather to his beautiful granddaughters Hannah, Grace and Mary. He treasured the time he spent with his family and leaves them with memories that will remain in their hearts for generations.

Paul was also a man of deep faith. He was devoted to his church and faithfully served as its treasurer and a deacon, giving his time and talents in service to others. His faith was reflected not only in his church involvement, but in the way he lived his life – with humility, responsibility, generosity and love.

Paul will be remembered for his quiet strength, his devotion to those he loved, his service to his country and his enduring faith. He leaves behind a beautiful example of what it means to love faithfully, serve selflessly and remain devoted through life’s most difficult seasons.

He will be deeply missed by his children, granddaughters, nieces and nephews, extended family friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Arrangements by Hultgren Funeral Home. Interment Mt. Emblem Cemetery.

Pocius

Claudette Marie Pocius, May 10, 1932-June 27, 2026, Dearly beloved wife of the late George Pocius; loving mother of Mary (Curt) Ollerer and Karen (Jim) Samata; beloved daughter of the late William and Helen Schanz; cherished grandmother of Daniel Ollerer, Allie (Coleman McIntyre) Samata, Angelica Samata and Kevin (Christina) Ollerer; great-grandmother of Bryce Ollerer; dear sister of Louise Peszynski, Steve Schanz and the late Camille Devine; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Maryhill Cemetery.

Ramos

Wilfredo Ramos, Oct. 23, 1987-Aug. 19, 2026. Cherished son of Alicia Negron and the late Fernando Ramos; loving brother of Luis Ramos and Yessenia Ramos Hansen; dear uncle of Mia Rose Hansen and Giovanni Hansen; loving nephew, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery

Ravanesi

Ralph Michael Ravanesi, Jan. 28, 1937-July 3, 2026. Ralph Ravanesi passed away at the age of 89, on July 3, 2026, in the comforts of his Wheaton home with members of his family at his side. He was active right up to the last few weeks, enjoying the presence of a large family birthday party in May for wife Dianne on a beautiful spring day in their decked-out garage.

Ralph was born in Melrose Park and raised in a “five-flat” three-story building on 24th Avenue and Augusta with his parents Joseph and Katherine, sister Ginger, grandparents Rafaele and Mary, Uncle Dave, Aunt Rose, Uncle Charley, Aunt Caroline and many cousins. To say the least, he had many eyes on him growing up that kept him out of trouble. On top of that, his parents sent him to Mt. Carmel Grade School that Ralph described as being under the authority and strict rules of Catholic nuns. Contrary to a regimented upbringing, he enjoyed his middle-school years tinkering in auto repair with father Joe; working puzzles with mother Katherine (Kay); telling jokes with Uncle Johnny and cousin Jerry; fishing in Salt Creek with Uncle Frank and cousin Skip; celebrating the return of Uncle Matthias (Mutze) from WWII; searching for unexploded fireworks after the Melrose Park Italian Feast; and working in the Melrose Park Bowling Alley setting pins. He later worked as a warehouse clerk for the family business of

Service Parts, which supplied HVAC components to the military during and after WWII. Ralph attended Proviso East High School where he participated in track, baseball and football. He would have been part of the Proviso East 1953 Illinois state championship baseball team with future professional athletes Lee Stange and Ray Nitschke, if he had not broken his leg in sports earlier that year.

In 1958, Ralph became one of the first in his extended family to go to college and earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois – Champaign. He studied electronics and system electrical circuits at U of I before the word computer became common. After graduation, he married Dianne Pranno at Mt. Carmel Church and raised four children in Villa Park and Glen Ellyn. Dianne and Ralph celebrated 67 years of marriage in September 2025.

Ralph was sophisticated and detailed, but also a gentle, soft-spoken family man who immensely enjoyed his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, mentoring, teaching, traveling, building, astronomy, earth science, puzzles, birding, local history and collecting relics of his past. He was instrumental in influencing the Melrose Park Historical Society to obtain the Kiddieland amusement park sign after Costco purchased the property for development in 2010. Some of his most memorable professional experiences included working for RIDL as a consultant to JPL and NASA where he has various patents on satellite communication systems and radiation detection equipment, including the 1962 discovery of higher-than-expected solar radiation levels in the Van Allen radiation belt over Earth’s atmosphere. Ralph was also the lead engineer for the Stewart Warner Company in 1969 that designed and built the first computer-animated scoreboard displays at Pittsburg Three Rivers Stadium, Cincinnati River Front Stadium, Philadelphia Veteran’s Stadium and stadiums in Kansas City for the Chiefs and Royals. Ralph also has patents on electronic circuitry for radiation cancer treatment equipment, robotic welding, Brunswick automatic bowling score systems, security card reader systems for ComEd nuclear power plants and ColecoVision (modern-day Nintendo) for 1982 arcade electronic graphics system Donkey Kong.

Ralph is survived by dearly beloved wife Dianne Ravanesi; loving father of Steven (Karen) Ravanesi, Mark (Cathleen) Ravanesi, Michael (Jose de Jesus Gutierrez) Ravanesi and Stacey (JoAnn DiSalvo) Ravanesi; dear son of the late Joseph and Katherine Ravanesi; cherished grandfather of Jessica (Chris) Nimietz, Scott (Allie) Ravanesi, Jackie (Kyle) Skarb, Gina (Sean) Paulish, Angela (Sam) Franco, Rachael (Claude) Coppola and Allie Nantz; great-grandfather of 18; dear brother of Catherine "Ginger" Pepping; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Burial at Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Ventura

Jovita Ventura, Feb. 16, 1952-Aug. 3, 2026. Dearly beloved wife of the late Jose Luis Ventura; loving mother of Angelica (Mario) Fuentes, Edith Ventura and Maria (Frank) Guzman; beloved daughter of the late Ramon and Lucina; fond grandmother of Jessenya, Mario Jr., Jocelyn, Oscar Luis, Cynthia, Nicholas, Anthony, Aariah, Liam Luis and Benjamin; fond great-grandmother of Avery, Kennedy, Paisley, Porter and Eli; dear sister of Eloisa, Leticia, Mely, Ramiro, the late Elvira and the late Leopoldo; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.



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