

## A Message From Mayor Ronald M. Serpico

*The Taste of Melrose Park is the most affordable food festival in the state of Illinois. Every delicious food item costs \$4 or less.*

*What makes us unique is we're family affordable, family friendly and very safe.*

Dear Neighbors,

The 42nd Taste of Melrose Park is quickly approaching. If the weather is nice the Taste will attract around 100,000 patrons over the upcoming Labor Day weekend. From the minute people arrive at the Taste of Melrose Park, they can tell they are about to experience something special ... 61 booths of culinary delights, three stages offering music to sway and sing along with, and best of all, time to spend laughing and having fun with friends and family.



*Ronald M. Serpico  
Mayor*

The Taste provides free parking, offers free trolley service to parking lots scattered around town and does not charge fest goers for any of the entertainment ... we are one of the few festivals who provide these services free of charge.

***The Taste of Melrose Park is also the most affordable food festival in Illinois. Every delicious food item costs \$4 or less!***

Most importantly, the Taste of Melrose Park donates the net proceeds from the sale of beer and wine to the Melrose Park Sports and Family Benefit Fund, which has raised over \$1.5 million for local charities and organizations. I consider this charitable fund to be one of my proudest achievements as mayor.

People are always amazed how well organized and family affordable our Taste is. What they do not see is the months of preparation that goes into making this yearly festival run like clockwork.

To better understand how this three-day event is pulled together please read on.

The person in charge of the Taste of Melrose Park is Peggy DiFazio, who has held this position for the past 28 years. She is assisted by Lorena Anguiano. Beginning in January, they contact over 400 businesses and individuals to gauge their interest in purchasing one of the sponsorship programs, which range in price from \$500 to \$10,000. The Taste Of Melrose Park is dependent on sponsors to help defray the overhead associated with hosting this event. This year we will have nearly 200 sponsors.

Beginning in February, Peggy starts booking the entertainment. Each year, she tries to bring different musical groups to the main stage located on the football field. She reads reviews on different bands, seeks recommendations from concert goers and personally attends area concerts to decide whether a band meets the criteria needed to perform on the main stage. We are unique in that we hire our entertainment without using a booking agency, which saves us money. Peggy usually has no problem booking groups since the Taste of Melrose Park has earned a reputation as a must-play event for musicians.

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



Follow us on Facebook.



Follow us on Instagram.

*Continued on Page 3.*



## Celebrate the Taste!

**Labor Day Weekend · Fri., Sat. & Sun., Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2024**

Ethnic Foods Priced at \$4 or Less! FREE Parking, Admission, Entertainment & Trolley Service

Village of Melrose Park Complex • 1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park, IL

Friday, 5-10:30 p.m. • Saturday, Noon-10:30 p.m. • Sunday, Noon-10 p.m.

**See the Taste of Melrose Park 2024 Entertainment/Food Info and Sponsor Ads on Pages 31-79.**

# Show Your Support for Our Veterans and Those Currently Serving Our Country!

## Call the Village Hall Today to Reserve a Flag in Their Honor



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

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

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

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



### Attention Residents

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

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





Continued from Page 1.

On our smaller Peroni Stage, we feature groups that are crowd favorites from past years. Between the two stages, we will present 13 musical acts in 2024. This number does not include the acts on our Sabor de Mexico Stage, which is still being finalized.

Now on to the real star of the Taste of Melrose Park ... the food! The first Taste of Melrose Park featured 14 food vendors, this year we will have 61 food booths (more than the Taste of Chicago) several of which participated in the very first Taste.

In February, Peggy sends out food booth applications to the previous year participants. The application, along with a deposit, must be in by March 1. If a past vendor decides not to be involved (which is very rare), an application is mailed to the next person on the waiting list.

The only variation of this system is if a vendor drops out due to illness, at which point the next food booth applicant on the waiting list is given that spot, but only for the current year, as we do hold the original vendor's place for the following year. If the original vendor doesn't return then, the replacement vendor will maintain the spot they were given.

The Taste of Melrose Park is unique in that almost all the food booths are family operated using original family recipes. The Missionary Sisters of St. Charles delicious "Sfingi" dessert and steak teriyaki are our biggest sellers.

We also make certain that no two vendors sell the same product. For example, if one booth is selling a pasta dish with meat sauce, then another vendor also selling pasta must make theirs with something like oil and shrimp.

All food vendors are held to strict state and county food-safety standards. A health inspector comes in before the Taste begins to confirm that all food booths are operating properly. If the stringent requirements are met, the food booth is issued a State of Illinois Outdoor Food and Sanitation Certificate. We offer a food sanitation class twice, usually in May, whereupon completion, attendees are issued a Food Safety Certificate that is good for a year.



To preserve the quality of the food offered, the vendors are provided three refrigerator trucks and one freezer truck, which allows them to maintain and quickly retrieve fresh products. The village does not get a percentage of food sales.

The wonderful Taste of Melrose Park experience is possible due to the 400 volunteers who perform a variety of jobs from overseeing the bingo games, to manning the beer stand, to collecting trash, to assisting senior citizens and so many other jobs.

We have a volunteer team that arrives on the grounds 10 days prior to opening night to assist with setting up more than 200 tents, the stages, the fencing, hanging sponsor signage, arranging chairs and tables, and much, much more. Many nights they sleep on-site.

Before the crew sets up the grounds, the Taste team has to lay out where everything needs to be placed. It is like organizing a military operation. Every detail must be considered, such as who gets what size tent and where it's to be placed. What food booth gets skirts and which gets counters. What booth gets side walls and which do not. Who needs water barrels and what tent gets cement blocks that get staked in the grass. Many people have no clue how much work goes into putting up just one tent, let alone 200.

And when the Taste closes each night, Billy Rich (who has been doing this for 42 years) and his hardworking crew go to work preparing the grounds for another day of fest attendees by performing a whole host of jobs. We also hire a private firm to sanitize the grounds each night and all garbage is picked up before we open the next day.

After the Taste's last night, the volunteers tear down the equipment on the grounds and by the next day everything is gone.

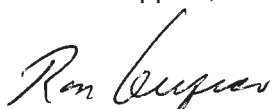
In this day and age, security at large events is a concern. Rest assured we have one of the safest festivals held in Illinois. Security is handled through our Police and Homeland Security departments. We have both undercover and uniform police walking through the crowds, we have drones watching from above and we have officers on the roof. We have two ambulances manned by paramedics and a fire truck on-site.

We are required to have dram shop insurance and a liquor license. All the food vendors have to get a certificate of insurance, naming the Taste as additional insured.

We began a carnival 15 years ago for children 12 and under that has proven to be quite successful. We have a deal with the independent amusement firm that provides the rides that no ride will cost more than \$4 and a percentage of the profit will go to the village.

I think what makes us unique is we're family affordable, family friendly and very safe. We have 61 ethnic food items where fest goers can sample a little bit of everything. We have three stages of free continuous entertainment and the senior patrons have an oasis to sit and relax. For my money, there is no better food fest in Illinois than the Taste of Melrose Park thanks to the hard work of Billy, Peggy and their army of volunteers. I also want to thank our residents and businesses who are impacted by the crowds and our generous sponsors.

Bon Appetit,

  
Mayor Ron Serpico

# See You at the Taste!



# Village of Melrose Park

**Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor**

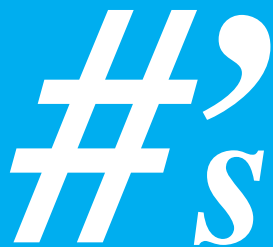
**Mary Ann Paolantonio, Village Clerk**

### Trustees

**Anthony J. Abruzzo • Jaime Anguiano**

**Arturo J. Mota • Sonny Nicotera**

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



## To Know

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

Hours – Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

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

Water, Tickets, Etc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hall and Field Rentals, Sports, Etc.

**Community Service.....(708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448**

**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**



## Village Vehicle Stickers Expired Dec. 31, 2023. 2024-2025 Stickers Can be Purchased at the Village Hall.

Sticker Fee for Passenger Vehicles is \$55 for Two Years (2024-2025).

Truck Fees Vary Based on the Type of Class/Plate and  
Are Good for One Year Only (2024).

Seniors Over 65 Years of Age are Free.

One free two-year sticker for a passenger vehicle or one free one-year sticker  
for a B-Truck vehicle registered to a person over 65 years in age.

Limit one free sticker per household.

If there is a second passenger or B-Truck vehicle registered to a senior in the  
household, a second senior sticker will be sold for half price (\$15).

Acceptable proof for a senior sticker is a valid driver's license or state ID card.

### Vehicle Sticker Fee Details

Sticker fees are as follows: Passenger Plates – \$55 for two years (2024-2025);

Senior Citizen – One free per household for two years (2024-2025);

Trucks – Good for one year (2024 only).

The current fees for vehicle licenses for each vehicle are as follows  
if paid now through December 2024 or 2025:

PASSENGER VEHICLES	\$55 Every Two Years
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

**ALL VEHICLES REGISTERED TO MELROSE PARK RESIDENTS AND  
ALL TRUCKS REGISTERED TO BUSINESSES LOCATED  
IN THE VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK ARE REQUIRED  
TO HAVE MELROSE PARK VEHICLE STICKERS.**

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION IS NEEDED TO PURCHASE STICKERS –  
NO EXCEPTIONS. LATE CHARGES MAY APPLY.**

**VEHICLE STICKERS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL VEHICLES  
REGISTERED UNDER A MELROSE PARK ADDRESS, EVEN IF  
THEY ARE NOT LOCATED, PARKED OR STORED AT THE HOUSE  
AND MUST BE PURCHASED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RESIDENCY.**

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

### Important Upcoming Dates

**Village Board Meetings.....Aug. 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 28**

**Village Hall Holiday Closings .....Sept. 2, Oct. 14, Nov. 11**



# Resident Response

**Dear Chief Phil Schwartz and**

**Members of Melrose Park Homeland Security – Public Safety ...**

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. On behalf of Veterans Park District, I wanted to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated men and women of the Melrose Park Homeland Security Department for volunteering their time and service at our Annual Softball and Bocce Ball Tournament.

Your unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community has always been an inspiration to us, and your participation in our event reaffirms the strong bond between our organization and your department. Your presence not only added a sense of security to the tournament, but also brought an extra layer of camaraderie and community spirit that we deeply appreciate.

We understand that the responsibilities of your department are vast and demanding, yet you chose to spend your valuable time with us. Your professionalism, dedication and the positive interactions with our participants did not go unnoticed. It is this kind of community support that makes Melrose Park such a special place.

The success of our Annual Softball and Bocce Ball Tournament would not have been possible without your invaluable contribution. Your presence contributed to the overall enjoyment of the event and it created lasting memories for all involved. We are truly grateful for your selfless service and for making our event a resounding success.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration and fostering a stronger partnership between our organizations in the future. Your presence at our event serves as a reminder of the great work you do for our community and we are honored to have you as our friends and supporters.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your dedication, time and service to our Annual Softball and Bocce Ball Tournament. We are immensely grateful for your support and commitment to making Melrose Park and Veterans Park District a safer and more vibrant place.

• Sincerely,  
Bill Otte, Executive Director  
Veterans Park District

**Dear Deputy Police Chief Anthony Greco ...**

I want to express our gratitude for the assistance provided by your Officer Rossi, Officer Schiller and Officer Menolascino at the Leyden Township Community Days summer festival in June. As you know, this was a joint event with Leyden Township and Veterans Park District.

We had approximately 8,000-9,000 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 District Executive Director Bill Otte, we thank you and your officers for the support.

• Sincerely,  
Ken Beres, Chief of Police  
City of Northlake Police Department

**Dear Deputy Police Chief Anthony Greco  
and Director of Public Works Gary Marine ...**

District 89 would like to express its sincere gratitude to each of you for your support with drop-off and pickup procedures for students during arrival and dismissal at Jane Addams and Melrose Park Elementary School.

You are truly appreciated.

• District 89

## The 42nd Annual Taste of Melrose Park is Looking for VOLUNTEERS to Be a Part of a Great Weekend

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

All volunteers receive a 2024 Taste of Melrose Park T-shirt and we're sure you'll have plenty of fun!

**Friday, Aug. 30 – 4:30-11 p.m. • Saturday, Aug. 31 – 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or 5:30-11 p.m.**

**Sunday, Sept. 1 – 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or 5:30-10:15 p.m.**

**For more information or to volunteer,  
please call Lorena at (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.**



## Early Voting Dates for the Nov. 5 Presidential Election

**The Early Voting Period for the Nov. 5, 2024, Presidential General Election  
will run seven days a week from Monday, Oct. 21-Monday, Nov. 4 at the  
Melrose Park Village Hall (Multipurpose Room),  
1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park.**

**Early voting hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**





# Melrose Park Fire Department NEWS



*Rick Beltrame  
Director of Fire Dept.*

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

# *Save the Date!*



## **Melrose Park Firefighters' Association**

# **FALL RAFFLE DINNER**



**Friday, Nov. 15, 2024 • 6 p.m.-???**  
**Melrose Park Senior Center**  
**900 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park**

**\$7000 Top Prize**  
**(\$10,000 in Total Cash Prizes)**

**\$100 Per Ticket • Only 200 Tickets Will Be Sold**  
**(Cost Includes raffle entry, dinner and more.)**

*Proceeds will be used to make charitable contributions to various organizations.*

## **MELROSE PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 AD BOOK**

**To complement our Fall Raffle Dinner, the Melrose Park Firefighters' Association will be producing a commemorative ad book showcasing the many businesses that have supported us in the past.**

**Cost of a full page ad is \$200 and half page ads can be purchased for \$125.**

**To purchase tickets or for ad book information,  
please call Steve Morella at (708) 906-9383.**

**Deadline to purchase raffle tickets or to reserve an ad is Friday, Nov. 1, 2024.**



# Melrose Park Police Department

## A Message from Director of Police Sam C. Pitassi



*Sam C. Pitassi  
Director of Police*



## Important Parking Notice for Melrose Park Residents

### A QUICK NOTE TO UPDATE WEEKEND PARKING RULES

Effective April 1, 2024, parking is permitted on both sides of the street on weekends (Friday, 5 p.m.-Monday, 9 a.m.) until Dec 1, 2024.

These hours do not include the Winston Park and West Melrose areas.

**REMEMBER, PARKING IS NEVER ALLOWED ON EAST AND WEST STREETS – 2-6 A.M.**

**ALL VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK PARKING RESTRICTIONS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED AND TICKETS WILL BE WRITTEN FOR CARS VIOLATING CURRENT AND FUTURE PARKING RULES.**

## Provide an Anonymous Crime Tip

The Melrose Park Police Department relies on individuals to help prevent and solve crimes in our community. If you have information about criminal activity, please submit it. However, if you would like to be contacted by a police officer, just include a telephone number or email address where you can be reached. Submit to tips @melroseparkpd.com.

## Overnight Parking Procedures

### Approved Vehicles Will Avoid Being Ticketed

The village of Melrose Park has established parking procedures for residents requiring overnight parking availability on village streets near their home.

Residents seeking permission to park any visitor, construction or family emergency vehicles on streets with overnight parking restrictions can visit the Melrose Park Police Department website at mppd.com, download the Melrose Park Police Department Parking Permission Form (under forms), complete all details and then submit it to the MP Police Department Front Desk.

After review, a Police Department supervisor will contact the requestor to notify them of approval or disapproval. The form can only be used for three days per month and is not valid until a supervisor signs off on it.

If approved, the permission will not allow the violation of village ordinances or parking laws. All violators will be ticketed.

For more information, please call (708) 344-8409.

Visit the Melrose Park Police Department Website at [www.melroseparkpd.com](http://www.melroseparkpd.com) ...  
• For Melrose Park Police Department General Information • To Pay Tickets • To Obtain Police Reports

The website can be translated to Spanish and Polish.



### **911 Remembrance**

**For those who**

***serve and protect...***

***A celebratory mass of thanks and a tribute to Homeland Security/Public Safety, police, fire, security, military, medical, emergency, and all first responders...***

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**

**6:30pm**

***Watch all the neighboring communities join the Melrose Park Homeland Security/Public Safety, Police and Fire Departments in a special "silent procession"***

**7:30pm**

***Members of all neighboring 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.***

**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**





# Always Stepping Up ...



## MPPD Receives Ballistic Vest for Lupo

The Melrose Police Department is thrilled to announce that Brady's K9 Fund has generously donated a ballistic vest for our department's four legged officer, K9 Lupo.

Brady's K9 is passionate about supporting our four-legged officers who work tirelessly to keep our community safe. Their organization is dedicated to providing essential equipment and resources to these brave K9s, ensuring they are well-equipped and protected for their entire shift.

Brady's K9 Fund was founded by an 8-year-old boy who felt K9 officers deserve body armor, just like their human partners. Since 2018 Brady's Fund has raised over \$1.25M and vested 950+ K9s across all 50 states. Their mission is ongoing!

You can make a difference too! Join Brady's mission by visiting his website and learning more about his cause. Your support and donations go directly to providing essential lifesaving equipment for these incredible K9 officers. Together, we can ensure our K9 officer and their partner come home safe together.

Visit [www.Bradysk9fund.com](http://www.Bradysk9fund.com) to learn more and contribute to the cause. Every little bit counts!

@Bradysk9fund • #BradysK9Fund • #ComeHomeSafeTogether



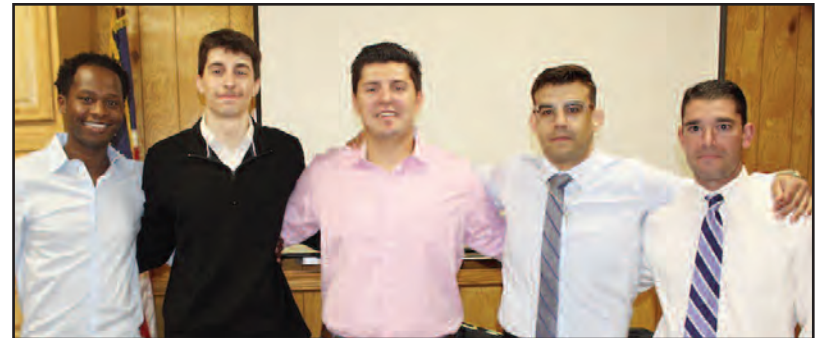
BRADY'S  
K-9  
FUND

8988 W 130th Street  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136  
(518) 364-4741

[www.Bradysk9fund.com](http://www.Bradysk9fund.com)  
Info@bradysk9fund.com  
EIN: 83-3277164  
@Bradysk9fund



## MPFD Welcomes New Firefighters



Village of Melrose Park Police and Fire Commissioner Sal Manzo recently swore in five new firefighters. The ceremony took place in the training room of Melrose Park Fire Station #3 as family, friends and well-wishers looked on. Mayor Serpico and Director of Fire Department Rick Beltrame welcome these fine men, and wish them and their families, good luck as they embark on new careers as Melrose Park firefighters.

Pictured, left to right, are probationary firefighters Fode Bah, Mike Scudiero, Mike Carpanzano, Abel Hernandez and Matt Sammarco, who are currently attending Romeoville Fire Academy.

### OUR SPONSORS

Hot Dogs by Jimmy's Red Hots  
of Grand & Pulaski &

Pizza by PIZZA BOY, Edison Park  
Served @ NOON

BUFFET @ 2 PM by Cuomo Catering  
C&N Construction, Hillside

Donny G's Restaurant, Elmwood Park  
Pan American Bank, Melrose Park

The Original Chickie's Beef of Hillside  
Area Towing, Melrose Park

GRECO & SONS & ONESTI ENTERTAINMENT

RAFFLES



SPLIT THE POT

\$100-\$2000 PRIZES

TRIPS TO FLORIDA, ARIZONA

& LAKE GENEVA

SUNDAY SEPT 15TH

NOON - 5:30

SEATING GUARENTEED WITH

RESERVATIONS ONLY

### 15TH ANNUAL

## BIG BASH BUFFET

MELROSE PARK CIVIC CENTER

\$40 DONATION PER PERSON

### OUR ENTERTAINMENT

DJ/MC Jerry Jamz Renda

Ocean's Rat Pack

Starring Tony Ocean, Bill Serritella

& Elliot Wimbush

Regina Karma

John Anthony

THE Stefanie Brinegar w/ Ken Madoff

HONEYBEARS

Ronnie B Elvis

SPONSOR TINY TAP, ELMWOOD PARK

BEER, WINE & SODA INCLUDED

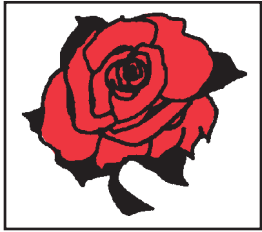
The Famous Rainbow Ice Cream Truck from 1-5pm



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

224-600-0333 [dotecarl1649@gmail.com](mailto:dotecarl1649@gmail.com)





# Village of Melrose Park Public Works Report

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

## 19th and North Avenue Bridge

The 19th and North Avenue bridge is now open. Please watch for details on our spring 2024 dedication ceremony.

## Multi-Purpose Field

A new state-of-the-art, multi-purpose field has been set in place at the Ralph "Babe" Serpico Memorial Field on 25th Avenue. The new diverse field can be used for a football field, soccer field, unified lacrosse field and a new walking track. The field is now open to the public.



## Feeding Wildlife

Attention Winston Park Area Residents – Please refrain from feeding wildlife, especially deer, around the Winston Park area. The food is attracting skunks and raccoons, and they are becoming a nuisance throughout this area.



## Attention Residents Along Silver Creek Embankment

Please refrain from throwing grass clippings and any other yard waste into the creek.

## 25th Avenue Municipal Lot

Under Mayor Serpico's direction, the lot on 25th Avenue and Augusta has been paved and open for free parking to residents. The lot on the northeast corner of 25th and Augusta has been paved for additional free parking for residents. The Civic Center's east and west lots have been repaved as well.

## Street Parking Restriction Signs

Please follow all street parking restriction signs posted throughout the village.

## Street Sweeping

The street sweeper has been out sweeping roadways. Please follow all street sweeping signs located on village streets. Please remove your vehicle from the street to help expedite sweeping.

## 2024 Fall Tree Planting Program

The list is now open for 2024 Fall Tree Planting. To request a tree for 2024, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128.

## 2024 – 50/50 Sidewalk Program

If you would like to participate in the 2024 – 50/50 Sidewalk Program to request replacement of sidewalk squares, please call the Public Works Department at (708) 343-5128 for more information.

## Melrose Park Dog Park

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

Please follow rules posted at the park.



## Silver Creek Restoration Project

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

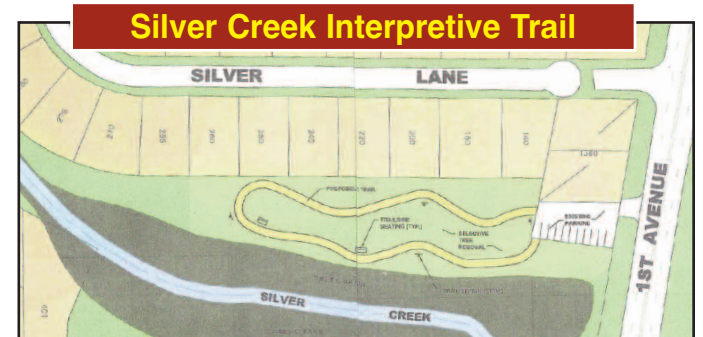
**Phase 5 and 6 of the  
Silver Creek Stabilization Project have been completed.  
Phase 7 is underway.**

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



## Silver Creek Trail Park

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



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

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

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

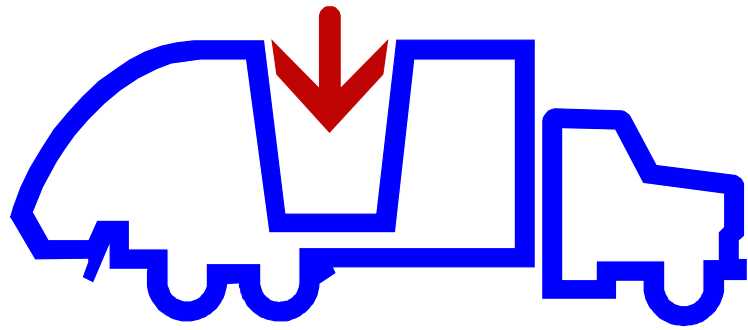


# Melrose Park Restoration Continues ... We're Working Hard for You!



Mayor Serpico recently directed the Public Works Department to construct a new parking lot at 158 N. 20th Ave. Now complete, the lot has alleviated some of the parking congestion for residents in the area.





# Village of Melrose Park Residential Garbage Pickup Information

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

24th Avenue to 11th Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

Winston Park Area – Tuesday and Friday

West Melrose – Tuesday and Friday

North of North Avenue – Tuesday and Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

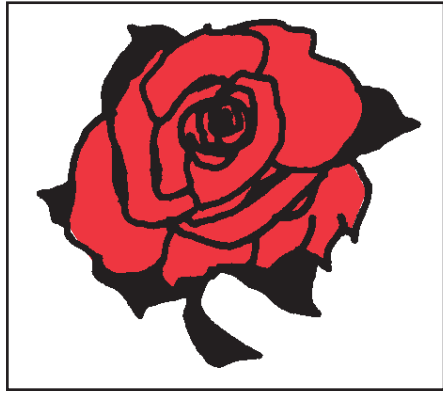
For a missing or damaged garbage can, please call Republic Services directly at (708) 345-7050 and ask for Customer Service to request a replacement garbage can.

## REPLACEMENT RESIDENT RECYCLING CANS

For the new larger recycling cans, please call Republic Services directly at (708) 345-7050 and ask for Customer Service to request a recycling can.

The smaller recycling can will no longer be available at the village Public Works Department or from Republic Services.





# Village of Melrose Park Dial A Ride Program for MP Residents

## Convenient Ride Service Now Available 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Village of Melrose Park Dial a Ride Program was initiated in 2000 to provide residents of our community with a new transportation resource to any location in the Melrose Park boundaries. Residents 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 thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To make a reservation, please call (708) 343-7047. You can make appointments during the hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday thru 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

Only one reservation per rider per day. NO EXCEPTIONS!

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 van up to three times a week.

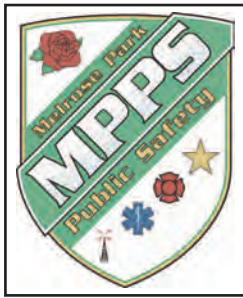
You must stay at your destination you are going to for a minimum of an hour. Any residents of Victory Centre MUST go with the group provided at their center for grocery shopping, etc. Any doctor appointment can be made with us.

Only three shopping bags per rider. Forgotten items in the van will be returned at the next pickup date. Please note that our service is getting more popular every day so we will try to accommodate your needs to the best of our ability.



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

**Call (708) 343-7047 for service.**



# From the Desk of Chief Phil Schwartz Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security –Public Safety

## 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.



**For more information, call (708) 649-8000 or visit [www.mpdes.org](http://www.mpdes.org).**

## **Answer the Call...**

### **Melrose Park's Homeland Security and Public Safety Departments are NOW Recruiting!**

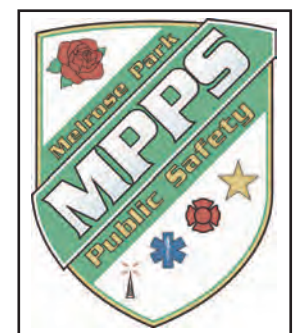
- Interested in public safety, emergency services and first responder volunteer opportunities? Become a member of the Village of Melrose Park Departments of Homeland Security and Public Safety.
- Team members gain real-world emergency services experience in the areas of police, fire, criminal justice, public safety, computer IT, telecommunications and weather-related disasters.
- Learn on state-of-the-art technologies and equipment that will give you expert training for potential career opportunities.
- We are seeking individuals who take pride in wearing the uniform and helping to provide public safety to our community.

### **We are Currently Recruiting for ...**

- Adults for both volunteer and paid positions in our 311 Telecommunications Centers, as well as reserve (auxiliary police) officers.
- High school students (14 years and older) to join our cadet programs – a unique experience which gives students the opportunity to gain public safety career exploration and training.

Questions? Please call us at (708) 649-8000 or email us today at [training@mpdhs.net](mailto:training@mpdhs.net) to join one of the most prestigious public safety departments in the region!

**Visit our website at [www.mpps.us](http://www.mpps.us) for more information about our department.**







# Melrose Park Public Library



## M P Melrose Park P L Public Library

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

### CHAIR YOGA

Rhonda's Rhythms

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

#### 2024 Schedule

FRIDAYS  
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

#### DATES

September 20th  
October 18th  
November 15th  
December 13th

For Adults & Seniors

#### Registration Required

ONLINE: [mpplibrary.org](http://mpplibrary.org)  
PHONE: (708) 649-7485  
EMAIL: [mpref@mpplibrary.org](mailto:mpref@mpplibrary.org)

Begin Your Journey...



Adult/Senior Program



### ONE-POT MEALS

Bring the family back to the dinner table for fun and conversation with comfort food!

Chef Susan Maddox presents "One Pot Meals" which makes for great dining as well as clean up. Friends and family will enjoy these tasty and delectable dishes with minimal work involved.

Saturday, September 21st, 2024  
11:00 AM- 12:30 PM

Registration is required!  
Call: (708) 649-7485  
Email: [mpref@mpplibrary.org](mailto:mpref@mpplibrary.org)  
Register online: [mpplibrary.org](http://mpplibrary.org)



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



Mon Wed Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Tue Thu 9:00am - 7:00pm  
Sat 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Last Saturday of the month - Closed  
Sunday - Closed  
Memorial Day thru Labor Day - Closed on Saturdays

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



# Melrose Park Public Library



M P Melrose Park  
P L Public Library

## Youth Services



### Make It Mondays

Weekly Crafts on YouTube

Make something special every week with us on the Melrose Park Library Official YouTube Channel! Contact us for information, and drop by the library to pick up the weekly craft supplies. Ages 3 & up.

### Online Storytime

Bi-Monthly on our Website

We are posting virtual story times online the first and third Wednesdays of every month! We will also have available for pick up at the library an activity package and unique craft to celebrate the story time theme! You will find all our videos on our website.



### ABC Adventures

Join our interactive playtime for fun with stories, music, puzzles, and toys. Ages 1-5 with a caregiver. Wednesdays - 10:00am - 11:00am

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 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

## Beneficio de Acceso para el Programa de Beneficios

Beneficio de Transporte Gratuito para personas Mayores de 65 años • Transporte Gratuito para Personas con Incapacidades  
Descuento para la Placa de su Carro en la Secretaria del Estado

For more information, please call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448 or Ext. 4452.

# Free Exercise for Melrose Park Seniors

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



Monday-Friday • 9-10 a.m.

Melrose Park Civic Center

1000 N. 25th Ave. • Melrose Park

*Socially Distanced Activity • Face Masks Required*

For more information, please call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4448.



# Village of Melrose Park

## 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 2024 are Sept. 19-21.

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

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

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

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

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







# 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.

## Important Melrose Park Village Notice ...

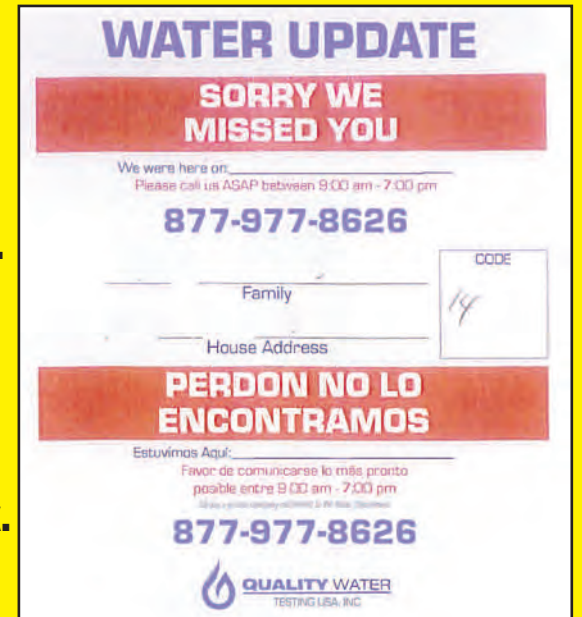
**Alert, Alert, Alert!  
Water Update Flyer Being Circulated is  
Not from the Village of Melrose Park.  
Do NOT Contact This Company!**

Dear Residents,  
Please be advised, the pictured flyer is being distributed in the village from Quality Water Testing USA, Inc. regarding a water update.

Please do not call this company as they are not affiliated with the village of Melrose Park.

Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rose in the Melrose Park Water Department by calling (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4435.

Thank you.



## Manage Your Water Bill Online ... It's Easy!

The village of Melrose Park provides residents with an option to manage their water bill online. Residents can visit [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org) and by clicking on images as directed, you'll be linked to the online Water Account page. You will need your account number and the full name of the person listed on the water bill to log in and utilize this feature.



If you do not know your account number, please send an email to RV@melrosepark.org and your account number will be sent to you.

By using this online platform, you'll be able to view and pay your water bill; review all your present and past bills as far back as 2012; run a water use consumption analysis; view your account history for bills paid and any bill adjustments; and enroll for an eBill statement which will notify you by email that your bill can be viewed online, which avoids any direct mail delays.

For more information, please call the Village Hall at (708) 343-4000.



**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.**



Community Nutrition Network  
and Senior Services Association



# You Can Change a Life!

# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Monday thru Friday mornings  
Volunteer 1 day a week or more!  
Mileage reimbursement available!



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

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





## Mayor Serpico Opens Third Avenue of Flags



Mayor Serpico, Village Trustee Tony Williams and Chief of Homeland Security – Public Safety Phil Schwartz were joined by Melrose Park firefighters, Homeland Security – Public Safety representatives and the board and staff of the Melrose Park Youth Commission at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Everyone who attended the event was treated to complimentary red, white and blue Italian lemonade.

On Saturday, June 29, Mayor Serpico and the Melrose Park Youth Commission dedicated 36th Avenue as Melrose Park’s Avenue of Flags – West with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at 36th Avenue and Lake Street (adjacent to the Melrose Park Fire Station).

Flags representing the United States of America, the state of Illinois, the village of Melrose Park, branches of the military and POW/MIA are now displayed on the lightpoles that stretch from Lake Street on the south to Soffel Avenue on the north side of 36th Avenue.

The intent of this Youth Commission project is to continue the beautification efforts of Mayor Serpico – enhancing and providing a new, respectful and fascinating look to our streets.

Contributions are still being accepted to continue and help support this creative project throughout the village. Donations can be sent to: Village of Melrose Park/Avenue of Flags, 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, IL 60160.

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

For additional information, please call the Youth Commission at (708) 450-0555.



## A Note Regarding Your New Melrose Park Water Bill

Melrose Park has refreshed its Water Bill layout and introduced a new format effective as of Feb. 1, 2024.

Pictured is an example of the redesigned bill.

Residents are asked to please register their accounts by visiting [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org), clicking Water Bill Payment, then Water Bill Management.

You’ll need your current account number and the correct name on the account to complete the registration.

After registering your account, click on EBILL ENROLLMENT to receive a copy of your bill.

By registering your account, you’ll be able to view current account information and past bills, and receive your bill in a quicker, safer and more reliable way than traditional mail.

For more information, send an email to [rv@melrosepark.org](mailto:rv@melrosepark.org) or call (708) 343-4000, Ext. 4435.

Account No.	Due Date	Amount Due	After Due Date		
45678-001	2/1/2024	0	0		
Service Address		Remit Address			
2345 MAIN ST MELROSE PARK, IL 60160		Village of Melrose Park 1000 N. 25th Ave. MELROSE PARK, IL 60160			
Mailing Address					
JANE DOE 2345 MAIN ST MELROSE PARK, IL 60160					
Account No.		Service Address			
45678-001		2345 MAIN ST			
Service Period		Meter Readings			
11/1/2024 - 1/31/2024		Water & Sewer			
Meter No.	Read Dates	Days	Previous	Current	Usage Unit Of Measure
23456789	1/31/2024 1/31/2024	0	1	2	1 100 CF
Previous Balance					
0.00					
Penalties					
0.00					
Adjustments					
0.00					
Payments Received					
0.00					
Balance at Billing					
0.00					
Current Billing					
Charge Code	Amount				
WATER					
Current Charges					
Balance Due					
Due Date					
2/1/2024					
After Due Date					



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

Residents wishing to have a block party must bring or mail in an application for a special permit in the Building Department at the Village Hall. The permit is free, but must be submitted to the village trustees for approval since traffic must be rerouted to accommodate a party. The village will provide barricades on both ends of the block. Any questions, please call (708) 343-4000 and ask for the Mayor's Office. For a Block Party Permit Application, visit [MelrosePark.org](http://MelrosePark.org).



**FREE Family FUN**

## Chalk Art FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21 • 9AM - 3PM

ON THE SIDEWALKS AT WINSTON PLAZA

✓ **Calling All Artists**  
FREE Admission & Participation • Professional Artists Welcome!  
Prizes for Age Groups & People's Choice Awards

**Art theme: Famous Art and Artists**  
Reinterpretations of famous artworks or portraits  
& works inspired by renowned artists

**WINSTON PLAZA**  
MELROSE PARK

North Avenue & 9th Avenue • Melrose Park, IL  
Visit us at [winston-plaza.com](http://winston-plaza.com)

# Winston Plaza Chalk Art Festival 2024

Come out and put your chalk art skills to use to beautify the sidewalks of the Winston Plaza Shopping Center on Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Prizes will be given out across various categories. Sign up now to reserve your spot. Visit [winston-plaza.com](http://winston-plaza.com) and click on events for registration and contest details. See you on Saturday, Sept. 21, at Winston Plaza!

## Village Hall Announces Holiday Closings

The Melrose Park Village Hall will be closed for the following holidays: Labor Day – Monday, Sept. 2, 2024; Columbus Day – Monday, Oct. 14, 2024; Veterans Day – Monday, Nov. 11, 2024; Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, Nov. 28, 2024; Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, Nov. 29, 2024; Christmas Eve (1/2 Day) – Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024; Christmas Day – Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024; New Year's Eve (1/2 Day) – Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024; and New Year's Day – Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025.

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, Ill., will conduct the regular scheduled meetings of the president and the board of trustees on the second and fourth Mondays 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 2024 is: Aug. 26; Sept. 23; Oct. 28; Nov. 25; and Dec. 23.

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

## Franciscan Resource Center Offers Local Assistance

Melrose Park-based Franciscan Resource Center is a nonprofit center for persons seeking help in their human needs, such as health, depression, domestic problems, hunger, medical aid, addictions, anger management, substance abuse, clothing and basic human needs.

The resource center refers persons to area agencies and follows up on each person's needs.

For an appointment or further information, please call Sr. Nila or Sr. Jan at (708) 567-5083, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

## Centro De Recursos Franciscanos

El Centro de Recursos Franciscanos es un centro sin fines de lucro para personas que buscan ayuda en sus necesidades humanas, como la salud mental depresión inmigración, problemas internos, hambre, ayuda, medica, adicciones, control de la ira, abuso de sustancias, ropa y necesidades humanas basicas.

Este centro de recursos ayuda a referir a personas, a las agencias adecuadas y hacen el seguimiento para que las personas reciban la ayuda necesaria.

Por favor llame a la hermana. Nila o hermana. Jan al (708) 567-5083 para hacer una cita ... Lunes-Viernes 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. ubicacion en Melrose Park.





## MELROSE PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

# Chamber Hosts Record-Breaking Legislative Breakfast

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development proudly hosted its annual Legislative Breakfast on Friday, June 28, featuring distinguished panelists Illinois Senate President Don Harmon and Speaker of the House Emanuel “Chris” Welch. The event brought together a remarkable assembly of elected officials from various levels of government, including state, municipalities, county, school boards, townships and park districts to discuss critical legislative issues affecting local businesses and community organizations.

With over 230 registrants and representation from nearly 100 different businesses and organizations, this year’s Legislative Breakfast marked the largest attendance in the chamber’s history. Attendees engaged in vibrant discussions and extensive networking, creating a dynamic forum for collaboration and growth.

Mayor Ron Serpico expressed his enthusiasm, stating, “Today’s annual Legislative Breakfast showcases the strength and unity of our community. It’s an invaluable opportunity to address the legislative challenges we face and work together toward solutions that benefit everyone.”

Isaac Bazbaz, executive director of the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development, added, “The incredible turnout today reflects our community’s commitment to progress and partnership. We are grateful for the active participation and support from all sectors, which makes events like this so impactful.”

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

To learn more about the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development, visit our website at <https://mpcccd.org> or call (708) 343-9500 today about future events and initiatives.



# Join Us at the Taste of MP for Bingo, Raffle and Fun!

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Bingo for its third consecutive year at the 2024 Taste of Melrose! 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. Last year we were able to join Mayor Serpico and make a \$5,000 donation to the pantry just ahead of the holiday season with the money raised during Bingo!”

Bingo will again be in the Gymnasium in the Melrose Park Civic Center. The Gymnasium entrance is located at the northeast corner past the food vendors near the Peroni Garden Stage.



# Grand Reopening of White Castle

On June 16, The MPCCCD team joined Mayor Ron Serpico and White Castle Regional Director John Whitaker to cut the ribbon for the grand reopening of the Melrose Park location at 840 W. North Ave. Mr. Whitaker indicated that the total remodel of this location took about nine weeks and the local team was excited to get the doors (and the drive thru) reopened and resume 24-hour service in Melrose Park.

The chamber would like to thank White Castle for many years of operation in Melrose Park and for the investment in the remodel (actually, rebuild) of their location at Ninth Avenue and North Avenue.





# Strengthening Community Ties in Melrose Park with Summer Networking Event

Mayor Serpico and the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development proudly hosted an After-Hours Business Networking Event, drawing nearly 75 attendees to the Melrose Park Civic Center Campus in an effort to continue to strengthen community ties.

The event, held on the evening of July 16, aimed at community-building among local business owners, community leaders and professionals. Attendees enjoyed a delicious BBQ feast and pig roast, fostering a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere for networking.

Mayor Serpico highlighted the importance of such gatherings, stating, “Events like these are crucial for fostering a strong sense of community and collaboration among our local businesses. It’s wonderful to see so many key stakeholders in attendance, dedicated to making Melrose Park a thriving place to live and work.”

Isaac Bazbaz, executive director of the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development echoed these sentiments, “Our goal is to create opportunities for local businesses to connect, share ideas, and support each other. Tonight’s turnout and the enthusiasm we’ve seen are testaments to the vibrant and collaborative spirit of our community.” Chamber members continue to enjoy these networking opportunities for free as part of their annual membership dues.

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development is committed to hosting events that promote networking, professional growth, and community engagement. This After-Hours Business Networking Event was a significant step toward fostering deeper connections within the business community of Melrose Park.

To learn more about the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development, visit our website at <https://mpcccd.org> or call (708) 343-9500 about future events and initiatives.



## New Chamber Members and Renewals

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) welcomed three new businesses as members in June and July. Please help us welcome Jade Sky Insurance, Smile Success Dental Care and Somerville Plating on their membership and partnership with the MPCCCD.

We also want to give special thanks to the 14 businesses that renewed memberships in May 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 businesses – they are North Park Medical Group, Diana Ibarra/State Farm Agency, Corrigan Financial Services, Trinity Health – Gottlieb Hospital, Scudiero’s Italian Bakery and Deli, Parks Home Real Estate, Iskali, Zagone Studios, Westlake Urgent Care, Little Achievers Child Care & Development, Special T Unlimited, Precise Lapping and Grinding, Flood Brothers Disposal & Recycling Services, and Norcomm Public Safety Communications, Inc.



**MELROSE PARK**  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development now has over 200 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 [ibazbaz@mpcccd.org](mailto:ibazbaz@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.

For information about membership, please visit the chamber website Membership page at <https://mpcccd.org/benefits-dues/>.

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

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

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



# Mayor Serpico Welcomes Flamingo to Melrose Park ... New Gaming Cafe Opens at 17th Avenue and Division



Flamingo gaming cafe opened its doors recently with a warm welcome to members of the Melrose Park community.

Mayor Serpico joined in the grand-opening/ribbon-cutting celebration on Saturday, June 29, and expressed his appreciation for the business's commitment to our village.

The cafe serves mixed drinks, wine, plenty of snacks, soda, bottled water and some say the coldest beer in town!

If you're looking for some hot slots and want to go home a big winner, stop by Flamingo and enjoy a fun, relaxing atmosphere with some warm hospitality.

The cafe is located at 1703 Division St., Suite 102, and is open Sunday-Wednesday, 9 a.m.-midnight; and Thursday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-2 a.m.

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# Melrose Park Celebrates National Night Out

## A Night of Gratitude and Celebration!



At our National Night Out Festival for first responders, the village honored and celebrated the incredible men and women who keep our community

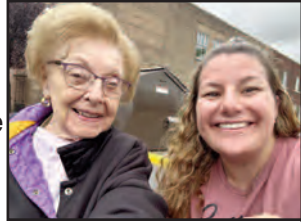
safe!

With heartfelt interactions, our

dedicated

first responders connected with residents, shared stories and helped build community. The night was filled with appreciation for our local heroes!

Thank you to the Melrose Park Police, Fire and Homeland Security – Public Safety departments, also to the West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, West Suburban Response Team, U.S. Army, Veterans Park District and the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development.



Peña Clinic

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**and Lisa Peña, APN.**  
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# Mayor Serpico Sponsors White Sox Outing for More Than 150 Children from the Area



More than 150 children from the area took in a White Sox game on Saturday, June 29, sponsored by Mayor Serpico.

The youngsters really enjoyed the remarkable time they had experiencing some fabulous White Sox baseball against the Colorado Rockies.



Everyone received a free hot dog and drink at the game, as well as a refreshing Italian lemonade before they left for Guaranteed Rate Field.

A good time was had by all, and by the way, the White Sox won 11-3!



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## 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](http://www.scouting.org).



# Historic Ruby Street Field Renamed in Honor of Terry Serpico and Joe McMillan

This past June, Mayor Serpico and representatives from the Melrose Park Little League hosted a special dedication ceremony renaming the Melrose Park Ruby Street baseball field in honor of Terry Serpico and the late Joe McMillan (former Illinois District 10 administrator).

Family members, friends, and many current, past and future Little Leaguers were on hand for the big event along with present and retired board members to celebrate the legacy of these two fine gentlemen.



## Everyone Has the Right to Live Where They Choose

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

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

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

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



Village of  
 Melrose Park



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# Mayor Ronald M. Serpico



**Celebrating Our 42nd Year**  
**August 30th Thru September 1st**

- ★ Friday – 5-10:30 p.m. ★
- ★ Saturday – Noon-10:30 p.m. ★
- ★ Sunday – Noon-10 p.m. ★

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or visit: [www.melrosepark.org](http://www.melrosepark.org)  
or call: 708-343-4000  
ext.4448





**Enjoy the 42nd 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 2024 Taste of Melrose Park

## Celebrating Our 42nd 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 42nd 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 \$4 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.

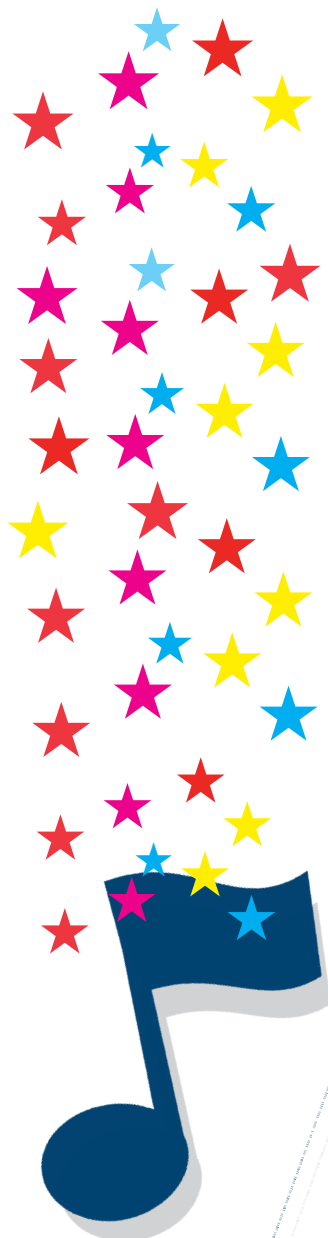
At this point, we must admit to one little problem that everyone strolling the "Taste" grounds seems to encounter, and that is the "I'm So Full I Can't Eat Another Bite Dilemma!" When this condition occurs we recommend resting your palate by sampling the entertainment offerings on any of our stages. 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,

  
Mayor Ron Serpico







# Entertainment Schedule

**Unlimited  
Carnival  
Rides!**

Saturday and Sunday,  
\$30 Wristbands Each Day,  
Noon-5 p.m.,  
All You Can Ride!

.....  
**MAIN DRIVE  
SHOWS**

**JESSE WHITE  
TUMBLING TEAM**  
Saturday, Aug. 31 and  
Sunday, Sept. 1, 2:30 p.m.

**JOE MARTINO**  
Saturday, Aug. 31 and  
Sunday, Sept. 1,  
3:30-5:30 p.m.

**CHICAGO GARDA  
PIPES AND DRUMS**  
Sunday, Sept. 1, 3:45-4:30 p.m.

.....  
**EXPLOSIVE SOUNDS  
DJ ENTERTAINMENT**  
North Beer Booth,  
All Three Days!

 **Fireworks  
Display**  
Sunday, Sept. 1, 9:30 p.m.

.....  
Melrose Park Chamber  
of Commerce and  
Community Development

**BINGO AND  
50/50 RAFFLE**  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
(In the Gym)

**Main  
Stage**

**Friday, Aug. 30**  
6-7:30 p.m. – Anchors Away Band  
8-10:15 p.m. – I POP  
**Saturday, Aug. 31**  
3:30-4:30 p.m. – Pretty the Wolf  
5-7 p.m. – Soul Sacrifice  
Santana Tribute  
8-10:15 p.m. – ARRA  
**Sunday, Sept. 1**  
5:15-6:45 p.m. – Are You Ready for It?  
A Taylor Experience  
7:15-9:30 p.m. –  
Chicago's Own Piano Man Band

**Peroni  
Garden**

**Friday, Aug. 30**  
7-10:15 p.m. –  
Tony Ocean and The Rat Pack  
**Saturday, Aug. 31**  
3:30-5 p.m. – Lake Effect  
5:30-7:30 p.m. – Toy Robots  
8-10:15 p.m. – Deja Vu  
**Sunday, Sept. 1**  
4-5:30 p.m. – Jersey Girls  
6-9:30 p.m. – R-Gang

**Continuous Free Entertainment All Weekend Long!**

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

# TASTE OF MELROSE PARK 2024 FOOD VENUE

**ALL ITEMS PRICED AT \$4 OR LESS**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Camaci's Italian Sausage</b>                         | <b>Cody's Root Beer Floats</b>                       |
| <b>Camaci's Arancini</b>                                | <b>Cheesy Mac and Cheese</b>                         |
| <b>Blast from the Past Sherbert</b>                     | <b>Athenian Foods Greek Chicken w/Rice</b>           |
| <b>Sam &amp; Sammy's Italian Egg Rolls</b>              | <b>Strawberry Slushies</b>                           |
| <b>Shwings Fried Shrimp</b>                             | <b>Squire's Cotton Candy</b>                         |
| <b>Carlotta's Sweet Aroma Linguine w/Garlic&amp;Oil</b> | <b>Pepe's Ceviche</b>                                |
| <b>Iannelli's Panzerotti</b>                            | <b>Nutella Crepes</b>                                |
| <b>Mickey's Italian Beef</b>                            | <b>La Casa del Churro</b>                            |
| <b>GALS Hot Dogs</b>                                    | <b>Nirvana's Brownie Sundaes</b>                     |
| <b>Larry's BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich</b>                 | <b>J.T.'s Italian Meatball Sandwich</b>              |
| <b>Putt's Breaded Steak Sandwich</b>                    | <b>Antney's Italian Lemonade</b>                     |
| <b>Richie's Curly Fries w/Cheese</b>                    | <b>Ashley's Snow Cones</b>                           |
| <b>Los Comales "Taco Bout It" Horchata</b>              | <b>Volunteers of M.P. Hot Pretzels</b>               |
| <b>Los Comales "Taco Bout It" Tacos</b>                 | <b>Marilyn's Delicious Hamburgers</b>                |
| <b>The Roasted Cob</b>                                  | <b>Riccio's Chocolate Frozen Bananas</b>             |
| <b>Cata's Flautas</b>                                   | <b>Scudiero's Pizza</b>                              |
| <b>Cilla's Steak Teriyaki</b>                           | <b>Scudiero's Pepperoni Rolls</b>                    |
| <b>Cervone's Homemade Cannoli</b>                       | <b>Clara's Dippin Dots</b>                           |
| <b>Ron &amp; Debbie's Fried Dough</b>                   | <b>Eli's Cheesecakes</b>                             |
| <b>Lezza Lemon Ricotta Cookies</b>                      | <b>Lil Dean's Lyza &amp; Nella Ravioli's</b>         |
| <b>5 Star Sports Cheese Enchiladas</b>                  | <b>Vinnie Laraia's Baked Clams</b>                   |
| <b>Levato Affogato</b>                                  | <b>Lil' Ralphie's Fruit Cup</b>                      |
| <b>Jackie's Bavarian Cream Donuts</b>                   | <b>Jessica's Tamales</b>                             |
| <b>Frankie G's Chicken Parmesan Sandwich</b>            | <b>Paco's Cuban Sandwich</b>                         |
| <b>Paula's Fried Meatball Sandwich</b>                  | <b>Top Butcher – The Sinatra Sandwich</b>            |
| <b>Nacho Mama's</b>                                     | <b>Baked Italian Combo</b>                           |
| <b>Soon's Tres Leches Cake</b>                          | <b>Corz Kids Garlic Shrimp</b>                       |
| <b>Italian Stuffed Mushrooms</b>                        | <b>Corinne Ariola Principe's Artichoke Casserole</b> |
| <b>Carm's and Gino's Fried Calamari</b>                 | <b>Elio's Funnel Cakes</b>                           |
| <b>Uncle Frankie's</b>                                  | <b>Missionary Sisters of St. Charles "Sfingi"</b>    |
| <b>Mostaccioli in Tomato Basil Sauce</b>                | <b>Sacred Heart &amp; St. Eulalia Parish</b>         |
| <b>Nikki's Zucchini Cheese Puffs</b>                    | <b>Food Trays</b>                                    |
| <b>Lil Jimmy's Pierogies</b>                            | <b>Guacamole</b>                                     |

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





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# TASTE OF MELROSE PARK



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**SATURDAY**  
**AUG. 31**  
12 PM-11 PM

**SUNDAY**  
**SEPT. 1**  
12 PM-10 PM

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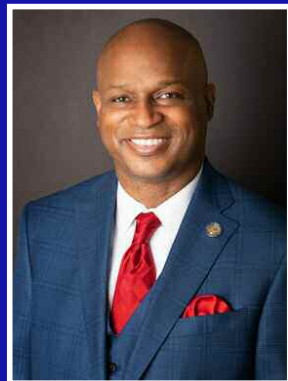
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*Don* **Harmon**

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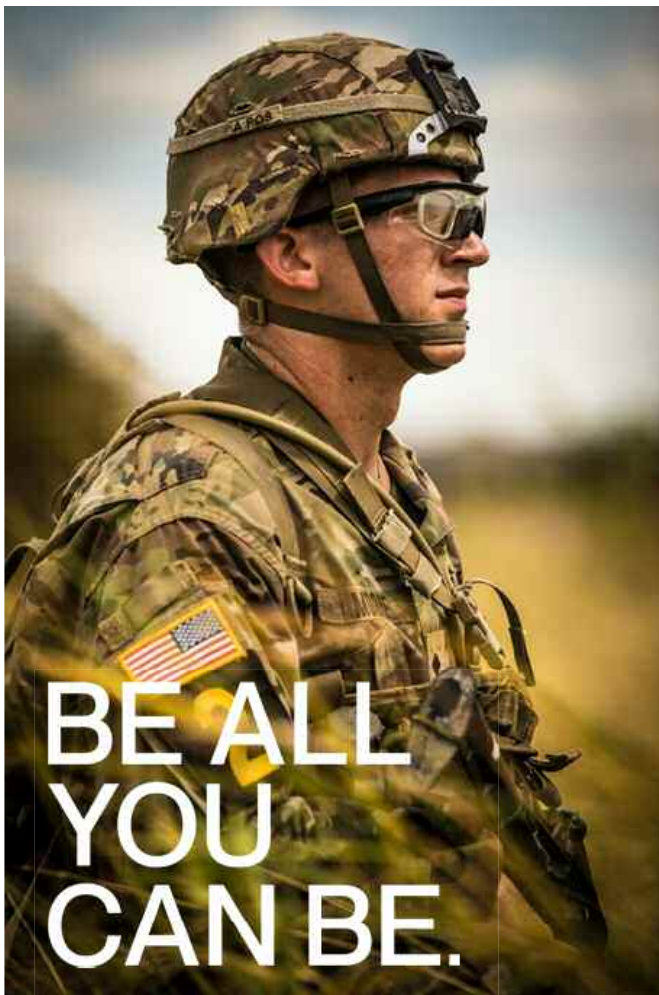
*Best Wishes to the  
People of Metrose Park  
and  
Mayor Ron Serpico  
on Another Wonderful  
Taste of Metrose Park!*

Best wishes to  
Melrose Park on  
a delicious and  
successful Taste of  
Melrose Park 2024!



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---

*Congratulations and Continued Success to  
Mayor Ron Serpico  
and the  
42nd Annual Taste of Melrose Park!*



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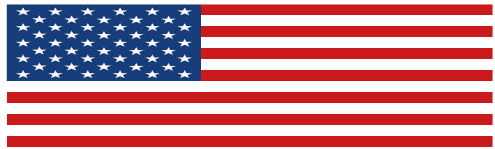
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# Best Wishes to the TASTE OF MELROSE PARK!



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Congratulations

to the

2024

Taste of

Melrose Park!

BORGWARNER



Triton College

# Fall Family Fun Fest

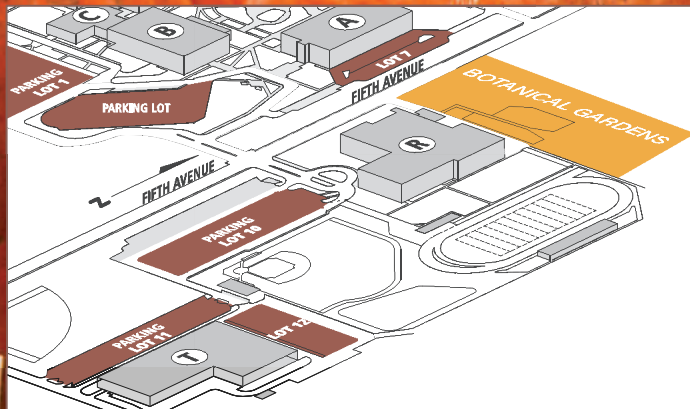
Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Triton College Botanical Gardens  
(East Campus)

Enjoy a variety of autumn-themed activities and games designed for all ages! Families are welcome to take home a free pumpkin (while supplies last). The event is **free** and open to the public.

Visit [triton.edu/fallfest](http://triton.edu/fallfest) for continued updates.



The Botanical Gardens are located on the east side of the Triton College campus, directly north of the R Building.



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a place  
for you.



Triton College  
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*Have a Great Taste!*

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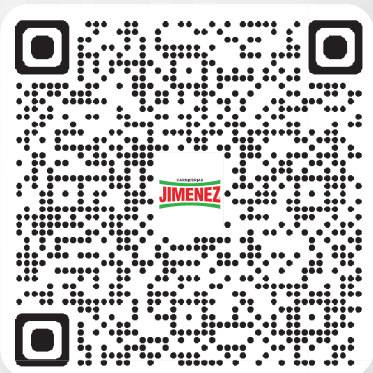




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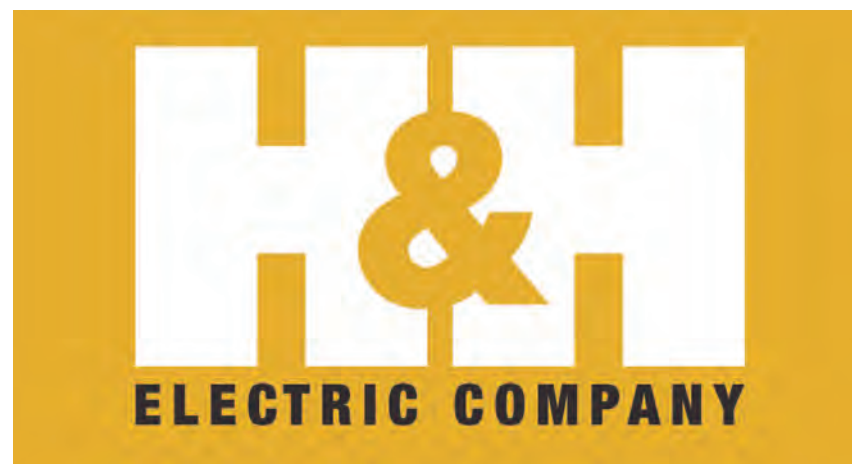
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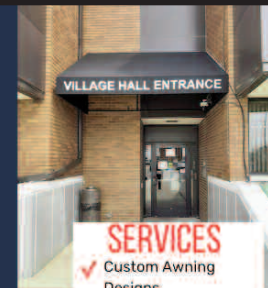
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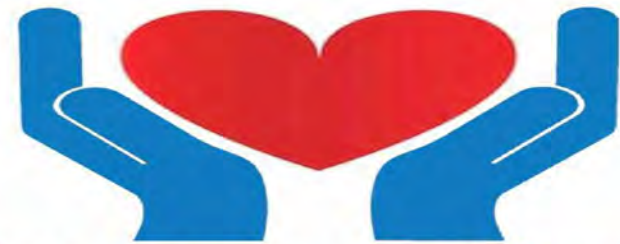




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# Veterans Park District

## Programs & Happenings

### Fitness

#### Pump and Sculpt • Ages 16 and Up

Offering the challenge of adding resistance by using light weights, this class helps you focus on specific muscle groups so you can stay engaged and firm up.

- Wednesdays, Aug. 28-Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m.; Classes are held at Cimbalo Fitness Center, 1203 N. 24th Ave., Melrose Park.

#### Youth Fit (Fitness for Kids) • Ages 8-15

Start them on a healthy path as early as possible! Basic exercise techniques will be taught, and obstacle courses and other activities will create a healthy, competitive atmosphere.

- Wednesdays, Sept. 4-Oct. 2, 6 p.m.; Fee – R\$40/NR\$55; Classes are held at Cimbalo Fitness Center, 1203 N. 24th Ave., Melrose Park.

#### Pickleball Lessons

Head over to Cimbalo Fitness Center to check out our new pickleball lessons! The rules are simple and easy to learn, making it fun for athletes of all ages. We offer lessons for a variety of age groups and skill levels. Fall lessons start Sept. 3, so sign up now while spots are available. Please call (708) 343-5151 for more information.

#### Active Adult Day Trip

##### Dancing Arabian Horse Performance & Geneva Pie Factory

Embark on a delightful day trip to Delavan, Wisconsin. Our journey begins at the enchanting Animal Gardens Theme Park, a sprawling 40-acre venue boasting an impressive collection of 16 exotic animal species. Hop aboard a charming wagon ride and traverse manicured trails through the Wildlife exhibit. Following the Wildlife exploration, enjoy a hot lunch featuring plated chicken, crisp salads, warm rolls, savory stuffing, golden corn, creamy mashed potatoes, irresistible dessert and refreshing beverages. Then, prepare to be dazzled by the Arabian horse performance at the Dancing Horses Theatre. As the day draws to a close, indulge in a sweet stop at the Geneva Pie Factory for a slice or two of their delectable creations. With motorcoach transportation included, get ready for a day filled with memories and discoveries in beautiful Delavan.

- Thursday, Sept. 19; Cimbalo Fitness Center/9 a.m. or Grant Park/9:15 a.m. departure, 4 p.m. estimated return; Fee – \$105.

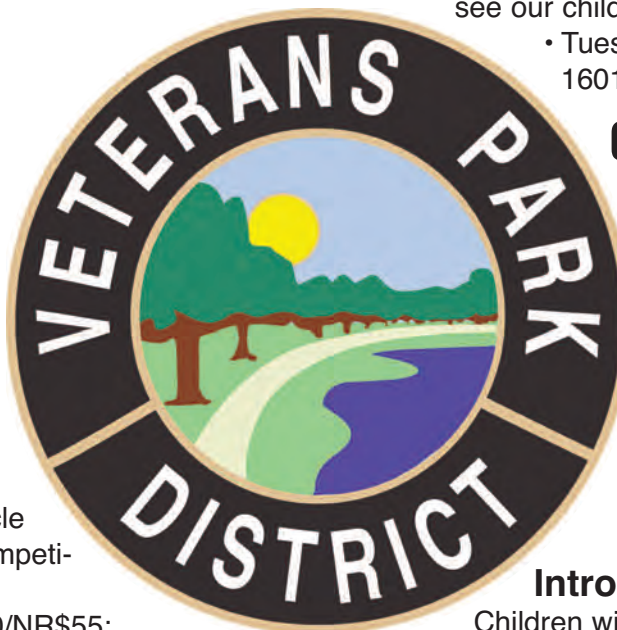
#### Early Childhood

##### Start with Art • Ages 2-5

Explore seasonal topics and areas of interest in this engaging art program. Participants will become more familiar with arts and crafts materials by engaging with interactive activities. Each week has a themed sensory station that relates our weekly activities and art projects. We cannot wait to

see our child's creativity at work!

- Tuesdays, Sept. 17-Oct. 22, 10:15-11 a.m.; Bulger Park, 1601 Hirsch St., Melrose Park; Fee – R\$70/NR\$95.



### Creative Arts

#### Drawing 101 • Ages 6+

Drawing introduces a new perspective of the world. Basic drawing techniques will be covered, such as tracing, penciling in and shading. This class is aimed to help young children expand their imagination, use their creative side and interpret the world around them. Supplies are included.

- Mondays, Sept. 16-Oct. 21, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Grant Park Recreation Center, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$70/NR\$95.

#### Intro to Acrylic Painting • Ages 6+

Children will learn to express themselves through painting in this fun and fulfilling activity. This class gives children the opportunity to become more creative, increase their critical thinking skills and gain a life-long learning appreciation of art. Supplies are included.

- Saturdays, Sept. 21-Oct. 26, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Grant Park Recreation Center, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake; Fee – R\$70/NR\$95.

### Youth Sports

#### Volleyball • Ages 8-12

This fun and instructional program prepares players to succeed in volleyball. Players will improve their serving, bumping, setting and spiking skills. Games will be played throughout the program. Teamwork and good sportsmanship are stressed.

- Mondays, Sept. 9-Sept. 30, 4-5 p.m.; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70; Classes are held at Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake.

#### Fall Basketball Clinic • Ages 8-14

Get your child ready for the 2025 basketball league. Led by Coach Vince Rociola, these clinics will run through warm-ups and go right into scrimmage games.

- Fridays, Sept. 13-Oct. 4, 5-6 p.m.; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70; Classes are held at Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake.

#### 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. 11-Oct. 2, 5-6 p.m.; Fee – R\$55/NR\$70; Classes are held at George Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park.

**Call us for more information on our upcoming programs, (708) 343-5270, or visit our website at [www.vpdpark.org](http://www.vpdpark.org) or our Facebook Page for updates.**

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**Veterans  
Park  
District**

*Programs  
&  
Happenings*



# Autumn Fest

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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 • 11 AM-3 PM**  
**GOVIN PARK, 2400 SCOTT STREET, FRANKLIN PARK**

**\$ 20 Wristband for unlimited use includes:**  
**Trackless Train • Pony Rides • Petting Zoo • Inflatables • Car Show • Touch a Truck**  
**• Free Pumpkin for Each Family (whiles supplies last)**

Individual tickets for sale. Tickets prices vary for each attraction.

**New Food Vendors!** Little Joey's/ Bacci Pizza  
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All VPD Special Event dates, locations, and advertised activities are subject to change. Please visit [vpd-park.org](https://vpd-park.org) for current information. Always check our Facebook page for updates: [facebook.com/vpdparks](https://facebook.com/vpdparks).

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**CIMBALO FITNESS CENTER**

# OPEN HOUSE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 • 8 AM-2 PM**

This open house is an opportunity to try out our fitness center!  
Free day-long access to the fitness center, as well as free fitness classes, demos, open court play for Pickleball/Handball/Racquetball, refreshments, giveaways and a RAFFLE with a chance to win fitness class passes, Gouin Pool season passes, golf simulator vouchers, and a free 1-year fitness club membership.



**CIMBALO FITNESS CENTER**

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# Veterans Park District

## Programs & Happenings

### Half Day VPD Preschool 2024-2025

# VPD PRESCHOOL NORTHLAKE

112 N. WOLF RD., NORTHLAKE

AGES  
3-5



HALF DAY: 9 AM-12 PM OR 1-4 PM / 2, 3, OR 5 DAY OPTIONS

Our DCFS licensed preschool program offers a balance of social and academic experiences for your little learner. Your child is inspired daily by dedicated teachers who provide a nurturing environment. Each child will have the opportunity to meet new friends, build self-confidence, naturally explore, develop strong self-esteem and learn to cooperate with others. Our goal is that every child leaves having a positive learning experience here at Veterans Park District Preschool.

The preschool program follows the Creative Curriculum, endorsed by the National Association of Education of Young Learners. Teachers also follow the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards, which are aligned with the Illinois Kindergarten Standards and Common Core State Standards to promote readiness for Kindergarten.

We accept Action for Children, a state funded program which provides tuition assistance for families who qualify ([www.actforchildren.org](http://www.actforchildren.org)).



#### REQUIREMENTS

Parents must complete a registration packet before a child is allowed to register. Packets are available at our Bulger Park, Grant Park, and George A. Leoni Complex facilities. You may also download our parent packet at [vpdpark.org](http://vpdpark.org).

The following checklist is due at registration:

- Completed Registration Packet
- Child's Birth Certificate
- Current Physical and Medical Requirements (found in registration packet)
- A picture ID AND utility bill with name and current address
- Child must be 3 years old by September 1st and potty trained
- Non-refundable \$100 registration fee is required

#### PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION LOCATIONS

Grant Park, 44 W. Golfview Dr., Northlake  
George A. Leoni Complex, 800 N. 17th Ave., Melrose Park

Call (708) 731-5290 or send an e-mail to [gstanczyk@vpdpark.org](mailto:gstanczyk@vpdpark.org) for more information or to schedule a tour.

#### 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR PRICING

**Please Note:** Tuition is based on a full nine-month program, broken into easy monthly payments. Classes will run based on minimum requirement. All children are provided with a snack, included in tuition. Tuition due on the 19th of each month, one month in advance.

Day	Time	R/N Fee
M-F	9 AM-12 PM or 1-4 PM	\$282/312
M W F	9 AM-12 PM or 1-4 PM	\$203/233
Tu Th	9 AM-12 PM or 1-4 PM	\$141/171

For more information please call the preschool office at (708) 731-5290 or contact us via e-mail at [gstanczyk@vpdpark.org](mailto:gstanczyk@vpdpark.org).



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# Triton College NEWS

## Apply Now for the Triton College 60-Year Anniversary Celebration Scholarship New Opportunity Fully Funded by Donations Received through Private Donors and the Triton College Foundation's Employees of Triton College Giving Program



In recognition of the 60th anniversary of Triton College, 1964-2024, the Triton College Foundation is offering a new scholarship made possible with contributions received through private donors and the Foundation's Employees of Triton College Giving Program.

The new scholarship, known as The Triton College 60-Year Anniversary Celebration Scholarship, will be awarded during the 2024-2025 academic year to 60 in-district students in the amount of \$500 per award that can be used for tuition, fees and books only.

### Requirements and Criteria for Selection

- Student (full- or part-time) must be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours.
- Student must have demonstrated need for financial assistance.
- Student must have completed at least one semester at Triton.
- Student must be an in-district resident.
- Student must submit an online application via the Triton College AcademicWorks platform along with an essay (500 words or less) discussing their financial need and how a degree from Triton College will impact their family and life.

The Triton College AcademicWorks platform is located at [triton.academicworks.com](http://triton.academicworks.com).

**For additional information, please call the  
Triton College Foundation at  
(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3758, or send an email to  
[tcfoundation@triton.edu](mailto:tcfoundation@triton.edu).**

## Fall Family Fun Fest, Movie on the Mounds and Glow Golf Outing Set for this September

Triton College will be welcoming the fall season with an exciting lineup of events open to the campus community and public. From a family fun fest to an outdoor movie, the schedule offers something for the whole family.

### Movie on the Mounds

Triton College's Office of Student Life will host Movie on the Mounds on Friday, Sept. 13. The movie being showcased is *Inside Out 2* and will begin at sundown (approximately 7 p.m.). The event is free and open to community residents. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early.

"Community is very important to Triton College," said Johnny Urbina, director of Student Services. "Movie on the Mounds is a great time for the entire family while enjoying Triton's beautiful campus."

Movie on the Mounds is a free event. Popcorn, hot dogs and beverages are available for free (while supplies last). No alcohol is allowed on Triton's campus. Attendees must bring their own blankets and lawn chairs.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the Student Center Cafeteria (B Building).

For more information, please contact [studentlife@triton.edu](mailto:studentlife@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3383.

### Alumni Association to Host Glow Golf Outing

Grab your flashlight! Triton College's Alumni Association will host its annual Glow Golf Outing on Friday, Sept. 13, 7-10 p.m., at Indian Boundary Golf Course in Chicago.

Now in its 10th year, the Glow Golf Outing is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the association, according to Andy Hock, president of Triton's Alumni Association Council.

Funds raised will benefit the association's Alumni Legacy Scholarship Fund. Every year, four students are awarded with a \$500 Alumni Legacy Scholarship. "The association is dedicated to building and encouraging life-long connections between alumni and Triton College," said Tina Lilly, director of Triton's Business Services. "Glow Golf is a unique and fun way to raise funds. We welcome all levels of play, along with non-golfers who are invited to enjoy the festivities."

The cost per golfer is \$75, which includes a nine-hole golf experience with glow-in-the-dark golf balls, golf carts, raffle, complimentary chair massage, participation in a putting contest and more. The fee for nongolfers is \$30, which covers food, raffle, complimentary chair massage and more. Food will be provided by Top Butcher Market, drinks will be provided by Maria's Mexican Restaurant and complimentary chair massages will be provided by Touch Companies Wellness Center & Day Spa. Space is limited. Register at [triton.edu/glowgolf](http://triton.edu/glowgolf). Participants are encouraged to register and pay prior to the event. Checks, cash and credit cards are acceptable. Checks should be made payable to the Triton College Foundation. Event check-in time begins at 6 p.m.

To learn more about the Triton College Alumni Association, visit [triton.edu/alumni](http://triton.edu/alumni) or contact [alumni@triton.edu](mailto:alumni@triton.edu), (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3692.

### Fall Family Fun Fest

Triton College will host its annual Fall Family Fun Fest on Saturday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the college's Botanical Gardens. Now in its 16th year, the fest will host a variety of autumn-themed activities and games designed for all ages. The fest is free and open to the public. Families are welcome to take home a free pumpkin (while supplies last).

Triton's Botanical Gardens are located on the east side of the college campus, directly north of the R Building.

For more information, visit [triton.edu/fallfest](http://triton.edu/fallfest).

# Kick Start Your Career with Triton College's Career Services Workshops

Triton College's Career Services will host several workshops this fall to help you kick start your career. Available to community residents, the workshops range from writing a resume to broadening your online presence.

## Resume Writing: Crafting your Professional Story

- Tuesday, Aug. 27, 11 a.m., Room B-170A (B Building).
- Wednesday, Aug. 28, 11 a.m., Room B-170A (B Building), and 1:15 p.m., Room T-159 (T Building).

Learn what recruiters look for in a resume and implement keywords in your resume to get noticed. Participants will also learn about the STAR formula to land their next job interview. After the workshop, set an appointment with a Triton Career Services staff member to receive personalized guidance with your resume.

## Resume Writing 2.0: Revising Your Resume to Make it Stand Out

- Tuesday, Sept. 3, 11 a.m., in the Library (A Building).
- Wednesday, Sept. 4, 11 a.m., in the Library (A Building), and 1:15 p.m., Room T-159 (T Building).

This interactive workshop will help attendees learn how to revise their resume using ChatGPT.

## LinkedIn 101: Setting It Up

- Tuesday, Sept. 10, 11 a.m., in the Library (A Building).
- Wednesday, Sept. 11, 11 a.m., in the Library (A Building), and 1:15 p.m., Room T-159 (T Building).

Participants will learn how to develop their personal brand using LinkedIn and other social media networks. Students can create a LinkedIn account or edit their existing one. Participants will have the opportunity to take a professional picture with Triton's CareerCube.

## Job Search Strategies: How to Look for a Job, Even in a Tough Market!

- Tuesday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m., Room B-170A (B Building).
- Wednesday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m., Room B-170A (B Building), and 1:15 p.m., Room T-159 (T Building).

In today's challenging job market, finding the right opportunity can feel overwhelming. This workshop is designed for a recent graduate looking to make a career change or for an experienced professional facing an unexpected job loss.

## Career Fair Ready

- Tuesday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m., Room B-170A (B Building).
- Wednesday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m., Room B-170A (B Building), and 1:15 p.m., Room T-159 (T Building).

Learn to successfully navigate a career fair, especially Triton College's fair this fall.

## LinkedIn 201: How to Effectively Use Your Account

- Tuesday, Oct. 15, 11 a.m., in the Library (A Building).
- Wednesday, Oct. 16, 11 a.m., in the Library (A Building).

Have a LinkedIn account? Learn how to use it to its fullest potential.

## How to Prepare for Your Next Interview

- Wednesday, Oct. 23, 1:15 p.m., Room T-159 (T Building).
- Tuesday, Nov. 19 and Wednesday, Nov. 20, 11 a.m., Room B-170A (B Building).

Now that you have your winning resume, learn how to successfully navigate job interview questions.

## Unlocking Opportunities: A Guide to Looking For and Securing an Internship

- Tuesday, Oct. 29 and Wednesday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m., Room B-170A (B Building).

Learn how to enhance your resume and foster networking opportunities in your career field.

For more information, contact [careerservices@triton.edu](mailto:careerservices@triton.edu) or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3805.

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

## 28th Annual Triton College Foundation President's Reception Set for Friday, Oct. 18 Harmon, Welch Named as Honorees



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"CHRIS" WELCH**  
ILLINOIS  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 7TH DISTRICT

The Triton College Foundation Board of Directors recently announced its 28th Annual Foundation President's Reception will be held on Friday, Oct. 18, 6-9 p.m., in the Triton College Student Center (B Building).

This year the Foundation will be honoring Illinois Senate President Don Harmon (State Senator • 39th District) and Illinois Speaker of the House Emanuel "Chris" Welch (State Representative • 7th District) for the generous support they have provided to Triton College and the Triton Foundation.

The event will feature the culinary talents of Triton's Hospitality representatives and local restaurants, as well as musical entertainment, and a commemorative ad book.

Proceeds from the event benefit Triton College Foundation scholarships. The Triton College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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



# NEWS89 School District89 BRIEFS

## Teri Cervone Sworn in as New D89 Board Member



Pictured (left) is the new District 89 board member, Teri Cervone, being sworn in by Board President Regina Rivers at the Aug. 8 board meeting.

## Welcome to Lincoln School!

On behalf of the students, staff and administration, we are thrilled to have you join our community. Our dedicated and experienced staff work collaboratively, engaging in meaningful data-driven conversations to implement best-practice instruction. We are committed to fostering a positive school-wide climate and culture, supported by Positive Behaviors, Interventions, and Supports (PBIS), and a culturally responsive approach to teaching. We prioritize the social, emotional and academic enrichment of our students.

Lincoln School offers a wide array of activities and programs designed to enhance our students' educational journey. From intramurals and clubs to after-school programs, we cater to the diverse interests and needs of our student body. Our list of offerings ensures a well-rounded experience, supporting both academic and extracurricular development.

- Preschool for All.
- One-Way Dual Language.
- Social Communication Class (SCC).
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program (DHH).
- Sports options like soccer, basketball, cross country and volleyball.
- Numerous clubs and activities aligned with our students' interests.
- After-school tutoring sessions.
- YMCA After-School Signature Program.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We look forward to a productive and exciting school year together!



## Congrats to the Bizarre Barnacles

The Stevenson Seaperch robotics team, Bizarre Barnacles, made a big splash at this year's International Seaperch Competition held on June 1, 2024, at the University of Maryland. One hundred seventy-four teams from four continents competed in a deep-sea mission theme, obstacle challenge and technical design report. Mentor teachers Robert Delgado and Stephanie Fitzsimmons helped prepare the students for the events by introducing students to basic engineering, design and science concepts to be successful in this year's challenges. Four teams competed at the regional event held at Lake Forest Academy in March to qualify for internationals. Team Bizarre Barnacles placed second overall to receive the invitation to the international competition. Congratulations to the team's remarkable determination, innovation and good sportsmanship!

[www.maywood89.org](http://www.maywood89.org) • Follow Us on Twitter "@maywood89"



# Meet D89's New Principals and Asst. Principal ... Campos, Hawkins and Bonilla



**Jacqueline Campos**  
Principal  
Washington Dual Language Academy

Mrs. Jacqueline Campos comes with a total of 18 years in education, 8 of those years were administrative roles. She has served in the role of Assistant Principal and as a principal.

Mrs. Campos holds a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction and one in Administration. She also holds endorsements in ESL, Bilingual Education and in Special Education. Mrs. Campos is an adult learner and comes with a variety of experiences in both business and education.

She has a wonderful family that she is proud of and enjoys spending time with her husband, 3 sons and her grandchildren. She is very honored and excited to start this new year at D89 as the WDLA Principal for the 2024-2025 school year.



**Monica Hawkins**  
Principal  
Jane Addams Elementary School

Mrs. Monica Hawkins is an accomplished educator who has dedicated over 23 years of service to School District 89. She began her educational journey at Illinois State University, where she earned a B.S. degree, followed by two master's degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago and Concordia University.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Hawkins has held various roles, including classroom teacher, Literacy Coach, Reading Specialist, and District Instructional Coach. In the past three years, she has held the distinguished position of Assistant Principal at Jane Addams Elementary School. Additionally, she served as the Interim Assistant Principal of Melrose Park Elementary School.

Mrs. Hawkins is known for her unwavering commitment to academic excellence and her passion for inspiring young scholars to reach their full potential. She sets high expectations for her students and works closely with families to build a positive bridge between home and school. Her efforts have contributed to a warm and inviting school climate and culture, where she promotes citizenship among her students.

Mrs. Hawkins is actively involved in the Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee. Her achievements and contributions to the community have been recognized through various awards, including the Second Baptist Educator's Award, the Fred Hampton Community Leader Award, and the 2024 Dream Weaver's Award from Operation Uplift Inc.

Personally, Mrs. Hawkins cherishes her loving family, including her husband, Witt Hawkins III, her five children (Whitney, Myah, Ananias, Maylin, and niece Zoe), her twin sister, Principal Marsha Alexander, and her mother, Ms. Geraldine Alexander.



**Jessica Bonilla**  
Assistant Principal  
Melrose Park Elementary School

Mrs. Jessica Bonilla is a proud alumna of School District 89. She is honored to serve as the new Assistant Principal at Melrose Park Elementary School. Mrs. Bonilla was born in Mexico and immigrated to Melrose Park at a young age with her parents. This has fostered a profound personal connection to this community. With over seven years of teaching experience, including five years as a 3rd-grade dual language teacher at Jane Addams Elementary School, Mrs. Bonilla has developed a profound proficiency in education. She is fluent in Spanish and English and holds a bachelor's in Psychology, a master's in Human Resource Management, a master's in Teaching, a master's in Education, and a master's in Educational Leadership. These credentials and extensive experience have given Mrs. Bonilla a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of education and leadership.

Mrs. Bonilla aims to excel as an administrator at School District 89 and continue supporting our students in achieving academic excellence.



# NEWS89 School District89 BRIEFS

## District 89 Summer Athletics Camp



District 89 hosted seven Athletic Summer Camps from July 15 through Aug. 8.

Below are the camps and locations where each camp took place:

- Middle School Basketball  
*Irving Middle School*
- Elementary School Basketball  
*Jane Addams*
- Cheer Camp  
*Washington Dual Language Academy*
- Soccer Camp  
*Veterans Park District Leoni Center*
- Bowling Camp – *Hillside Lanes*
- Volleyball Camp  
*Stevenson Middle School*
- Tumbling Camp  
*Melrose Park School*

The camps were free for all District 89 students entering fourth through eighth grade.

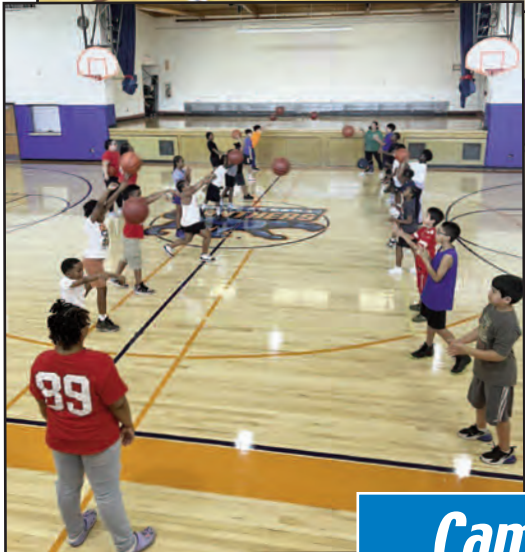
Campers were provided lunch every day and received a camp T-shirt.

Thanks to Chambers Community Empowerment Center of East Cleveland, Ohio, soccer campers at the Leoni Center in Melrose Park were gifted new cleats.

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

Follow Us on Twitter “@maywood89”





***Campers – We Hope You Had a Lot of Fun!***



# NEWS89 **School District 89 BRIEFS**



## Garfield's on the Move!

Garfield Elementary is on the move! We've recently completed our Summer Learning Opportunities: Extended School Year (ESY-STARS), Traditional Summer School, Academic Online Power Pods and Summer Jumpstart (Grades K-2). Our scholars have returned to our classrooms and hallways filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning. It is our mission to help every scholar feel welcomed, connected and a part of our learning environment. Additionally, we strive to challenge our scholars to achieve academic success in all core subjects. We believe all children can reach their highest potential and beyond! Collectively, Garfield accepts the challenge to ensure academic growth and success. We also plan to have lots of fun in the process! Here's to an amazing school year! Go Giants!



## District 89 Proudly Highlights Success of Summer Scholars Program

District 89 students entering first through third grades participated in Summer Scholars, an enrichment program with a focus on hands-on activities in reading, math, art, music and STEM.

The program ran June 3-July 11 at Melrose Park Elementary and concluded with a "Summer Scholars Celebration" when families were invited to school to see student-led presentations and performances. About 40 students, and hundreds of family members and staff attended.

Displays included student-created board games, STEM experiments, digital animation projects and clay sculptures. For their final activity, students put on a mini-musical performance. All students and grades worked together to showcase acting, dancing, singing and prop design.

District 89 is proud to highlight the success of our Summer Scholars!



[www.maywood89.org](http://www.maywood89.org) • Follow Us on Twitter "@maywood89"

## District 89 Preschool Program Prepares Children for Academic Success

Our district's preschool program is designed to meet the Illinois State Board of Education requirements under the Preschool for All (PFA) Grant. We offer a two-and-a-half-hour program, Monday through Friday, that emphasizes holistic child development through a play-based curriculum, Creative Curriculum.

Creative Curriculum aligns with the learning domains which include social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive and literacy development. Through intentional and structured play, children engage in hands-on activities that foster critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration. This approach allows them to explore and interact with their environment in meaningful ways.

Our educators create rich learning experiences that promote exploration and discovery, ensuring that each child's unique needs and interests are met while preparing them for future academic success.



## PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS

Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD-89

### About the Program

- 2.5 hour program Monday through Friday
- Two sessions:
  - AM: 8:10am-10:40am
  - PM: 11:40am-2:10pm
- Children must attend a screening to be considered.
- Limited enrollment- placement is not guaranteed
- State funded- no cost to families

### Sign Up Here!



### Contact us

**Preschool For All Program**



[Lauren.pace@maywoo89.org](mailto:Lauren.pace@maywoo89.org)



**708-450-2460**





## **A Message from Tim Bouman, Head of School** **Gearing Up for Another Year ... Warm greetings from Walther**

As we get ready for a new school year, I have been reflecting on the past five years and all that has taken place, including the many ways the Lord has blessed this ministry. I took on the role of Principal/Head of School in the summer of 2019, and the last five school years have been incredibly rewarding as I've gotten to know and lead this wonderful community. In that time, Walther has had 15 sport seasons, around 180 chapel services, nearly 900 days of school and one global pandemic. As I personally gear up for my sixth school year at Walther, the one word that keeps coming back to me is this: family. Alumni from every era tell me Walther was like a family when they attended, and that is how so many of our faculty and students describe it today. We are a family because we all acknowledge that we are children of God, brothers and sisters in Christ. We are a family with a common vision, preparing for lives of purpose, learning and service. We are a family that supports one another. Like all families, we may not always get along and agree on everything, but we know that when push comes to shove, the Walther community comes together to love one another – as Christ loved us. I am blessed to be on the verge of starting my sixth year at Walther and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. Please keep our school in your prayers as we start our 71st year!

Yours in Christ,

Tim Bouman, Head of School/Principal

## **From Our Advancement Director** **Alumni Dinner and Concert, Reunions and more!**

Spend the weekend of Oct. 25-26 with Walther Christian Academy. On Friday, Oct. 25, we will be hosting our annual Alumni Dinner at the school. You will be treated to a tour of Walther, a great dinner, a museum of archives and a concert that you can even participate in. We will also provide private reunion classrooms to kick off your reunion weekend! Last year, we hosted two class reunions that enjoyed wine and light appetizers in private classrooms, giving classmates a chance to reconnect.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, join us for a brief chapel service at 9 a.m., followed by the Erin Stanley Memorial Softball Game at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m., we induct our first Athletic Hall of Fame class since 1998 followed by the varsity football at 1 p.m., vs. Westmont. Most reunions gather on Saturday evening at a local restaurant or hotel ... start planning now! Let us know if you need contact information for your classmates.

Ticket information for the Alumni Dinner and Hall of Fame Ceremony will be available soon. Save the date and connect with classmates now to make this a great Homecoming Weekend. I look forward to meeting and reconnecting with alumni from many decades of Walther graduation classes.

Bill Koehne '87, Advancement Director  
Walther Christian Academy

## **Alumni Spotlight: Ethan Gonzalez**

Ethan Gonzalez, Walther Class of 2022, is a student at University of Southern California (USC). After starting as a political science major, he transferred to the Marshall School of Business at USC and absolutely loves it. He is especially pleased with the support and resources involving emotional and mental health for students, the networking available and USC's commitment to inclusion for all.

The networking opportunities helped Ethan land a full-time internship this summer at the accounting firm Ernst and Young in Chicago. He is part of a launch internship program that will allow him to experience two rotations. He started in the Internal Audit Division focusing on enterprise risk and is currently working in Assurance within the External Audit Division. Ethan hopes to return to EY next summer for a service line internship where he would spend the full summer diving deep into one area of the firm.

While at Walther, Ethan was involved in volleyball, Mathletes, NHS and Student Council (serving as vice president as a senior). He credits Walther for a strong academic foundation. He is especially thankful for his teachers' dedication and desire for their students to be successful.



*Ethan Gonzalez*

After graduation from USC, Ethan plans to pursue a career as a CPA and foresees completing an MBA at some point in the near future. We look forward to following his progress along the way.

## Save the Date ... Alumni Weekend

Spend the weekend of Oct. 25-26 with Walther Christian Academy.

If you are organizing a class reunion and would like a contact list or logistical help, feel free to contact Bill Koehne at [advancement@waltheracademy.org](mailto:advancement@waltheracademy.org).

## Purchase a Paver!

Do you want to support Walther and leave your mark? Or, purchase a gift for someone you love?

The time is now to become a permanent part of Walther by purchasing an engraved paver. You can purchase one on our website by choosing the paver purchase option to honor your time at Walther, thank a parent for sending you here, thank a teacher, honor a memory or give recognition to your business! The pavers are \$200 each.



Visit [Walther.com](http://Walther.com) and click on "Donate" for more information.

## Honoring Walther's Proud History



As part of Walther's 70th Anniversary, plans are underway to revitalize Walther's Athletic Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame currently includes 17 members with the last class inducted in 1998. The Hall will honor alumni by recognizing the milestones and historic moments achieved by individuals and teams throughout Walther's history, honor coaches who made a significant impact on the student-athletes here at Walther and acknowledge the contributions of supporters of Bronco athletics over the years. The 2024 inductees will be announced on Aug. 30 during our first home football game and the following week on Walther's social media. Consider making plans to join us for the induction ceremony on Homecoming Saturday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m.

# The ROSE

## Wants to Hear Your Story ...

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

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

If you answered "Yes," then we want your story!

Please send all your exciting details by direct mail to:

The Rose

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

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

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





**A Holiday Note from  
Your Christmas Tree Guy ...**

*Ken's Christmas Trees*

*is moving across the street to Winston Plaza,  
between Best Buy and Chick-Fil-A.*

*We have provided trees, wreaths  
and garland to Melrose Park and the  
surrounding area for the past 50 years  
(30 years at Kiddieland).*

*We will be open the weekend of Nov. 22 until Dec. 22,  
8 a.m.-10 p.m. every day to meet your needs.*

*See you soon,  
Your Tree Guy - Dave Guenther*



# 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,

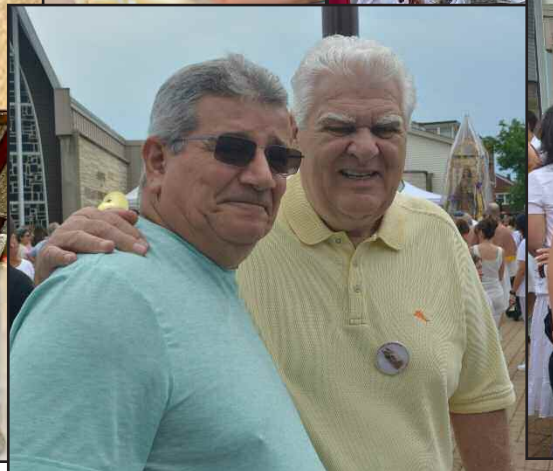


On the celebration of the 131st Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, I want to commend, the entire Feast Committee, the Altar and Rosary Society, the Spanish community and groups, the altar servers, the choir and all the volunteers. Without you this Feast would not have happened and with no reluctance, this 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. A special thanks to the village of Melrose Park and Mayor Ronald Serpico. Due to your help with your department directors, especially Phillip Schwartz, the Police, Fire and MPPS, our Feast was an honorable and devoted event.

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

*Grazie!  
Thanks!*



## Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Coming Event Schedule

**Wednesday, Sept. 11: To Those Who Serve and Protect.**

**Mass, Procession and Outdoor Reception**

A thank you Mass and tribute to police, fire, military, medical and first responders.

**Saturday, Sept. 14: Fiesta De La Independencia**

**After 5:30 p.m. Mass at Carmel Hall**





# Upcoming Events at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Shrine

## September 2024 Events



Nativity of the Blessed Mother

### Nativity of the Blessed Mother Sunday, Sept. 8

Regular Sunday Mass schedule.

### The Feast of Maria S.S. Addolorata (Our Lady of Sorrows) Sunday, Sept. 8/Noon

Italian/English bilingual Mass.



Feast of Maria S.S. Addolorata



To Those Who Serve and Protect

### To Those Who Serve and Protect Wednesday, Sept. 11

A Mass of appreciation for all police, fire, military, medical and first responders with an outdoor reception.

### Our Lady of Sorrows Healing Mass Friday, Sept. 13/6:30 p.m.

Trilingual Mass and anointing of healing oils.



Our Lady of Sorrows

Commemorate the profound union of heart ... the seven sorrows the Blessed Mother endured and reminds us of compassion, consolation and peace.

- The First Sorrow: The Prophecy of Simeon and Anna ... • The Second Sorrow: The Flight into Egypt. ...
- The Third Sorrow: The Loss of the Child Jesus ... • The Fourth Sorrow: The Condemnation of Jesus ... • The Fifth Station: The Crucifixion of Jesus ...
- The Sixth Station: The Retrieval of Jesus' Body ... • The Seventh Station: The Burial of Jesus.



Independencia

### Independencia Saturday, Sept. 14/5:30 p.m.

Bilingual Mass followed by community reception.

### Feast of St. Padre Pio Sunday, Sept. 22

Procession – 10:30 a.m. • Outdoor Mass – Noon (Followed by a reception.)



Feast of St. Padre Pio

# October 2024 Events



Feast of  
St. Francis of Assisi

## The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and a Blessing of the Pets Friday, Oct. 4/6:30 p.m.

Trilingual Mass. Pets will be blessed in front of the church before or after Mass.

## SPECIAL EVENT Our Lady of Fatima Visit Friday, Oct. 11

The visiting statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel for a day of adoration and private meditation.

A special commemorative Mass will be held at 6:30 p.m., followed by a rosary, confession and benediction.



Our Lady of Fatima  
Visit



St. Anthony Society  
Breakfast Buffet

## St. Anthony Society Annual Breakfast Buffet Sunday, Oct. 13/8:30 a.m.-Noon

The St. Anthony Society of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine will once again be holding their annual Breakfast Buffet in the Parish Gym on Sunday, Oct. 13, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

The Gym is located on the corner of 22nd and Cortez in Melrose Park.

The society will be serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bagels and cream cheese, coffee, juice, pastries and fruit.

Donation is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under 12.

Tickets can be purchased in the church Rectory, from any St. Anthony Society member, or at the door.

For tickets or more information, call the Rectory at (708) 344-4140.

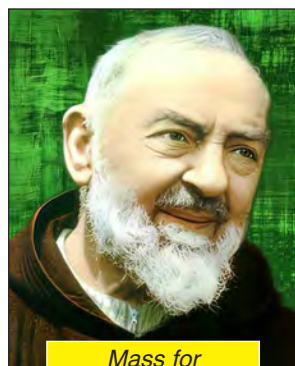
## Fiera de Mole Sunday, Oct. 27/10 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Mass for Padre Pio Sunday, Oct. 27/10:30 a.m.

Italian Mass and reception.



Fiera de Mole



Mass for  
Padre Pio

## Halloween Thursday, Oct. 31/6:30 p.m.

Costume contest before Mass.

**For more information, please call the Rectory at (708) 344-4140.**



# PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE OF FATIMA PARISH VISITATION

*Coming to*

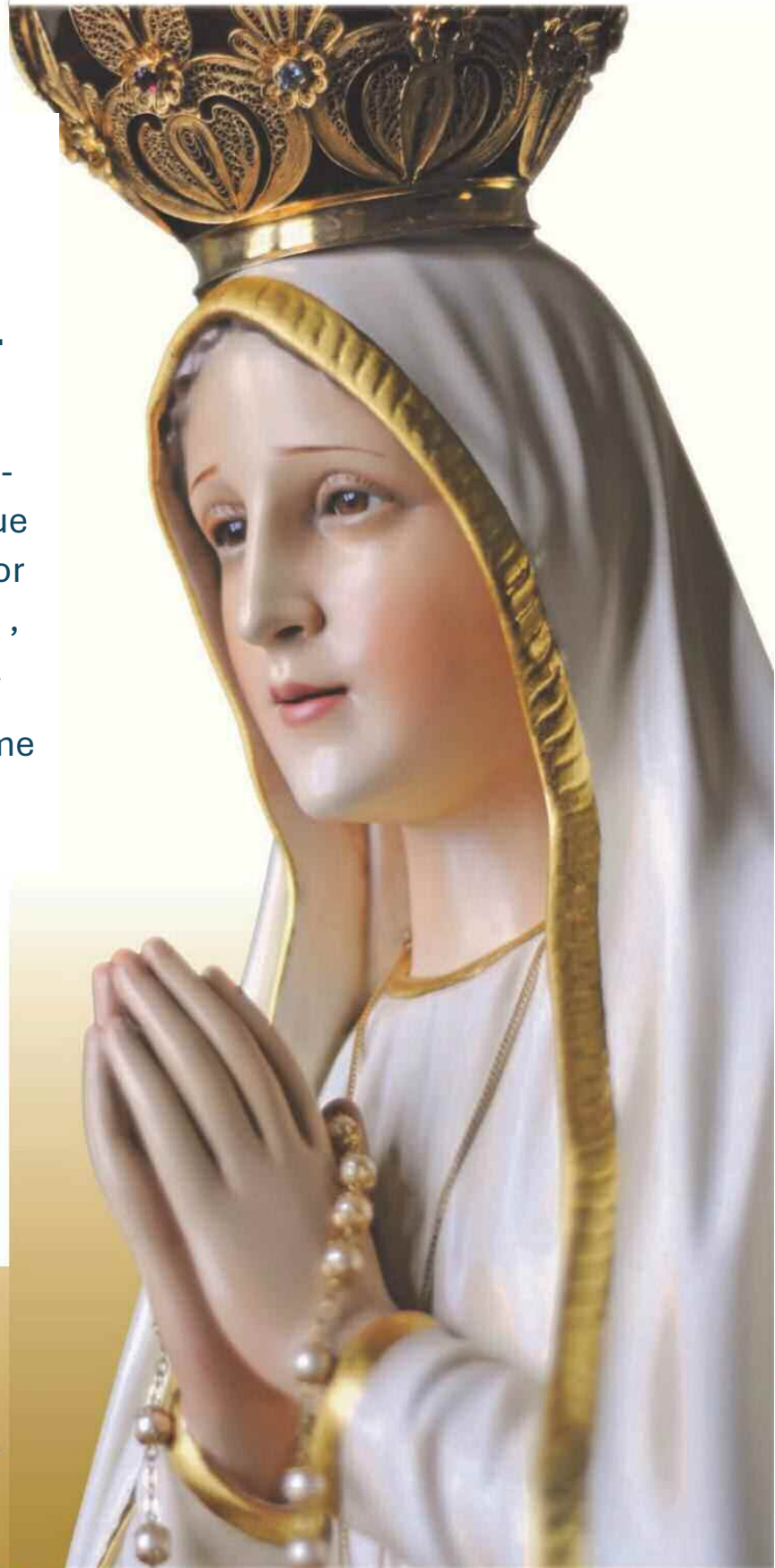
**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
Parish & Shrine**

**Friday, October 11, 2024**

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel of Mt. Carmel Parish & Shrine will be hosting the world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima on Friday, October 11, 2024, for adoration, individual meditation, rosary, , and Mass, confession, and Benediction.

Please call the rectory for details and time of events. 708-344-4140.

This historic image of Our Lady has been traveling worldwide since 1947, when it set forth from Fatima to bring her message of hope and peace to a world in need after the devastation of World War II.



**See full tour schedule at:  
[Fatimatourforpeace.com/tours/](http://Fatimatourforpeace.com/tours/)**



WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA, USA  
*Our Lady's Blue Army*  
WWW.BLUEARMY.COM



# Know your options.

## Make the choice that is right for you.

## Beginning **May 7, 2025,**

the federal government will require you to use a valid **U.S. passport\*** or obtain the new Illinois **REAL ID** to fly domestically.

\* For a complete list of acceptable REAL ID-compliant documents, visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).

### You **NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You do **not** have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; AND
- You use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You visit military bases; or
- You visit secure federal facilities.



The federal government requires REAL ID applicants to provide documentation confirming identity, Social Security number, residency and signature.

### You **DO NOT NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You have a valid U.S. passport or passport card;
- You do **not** use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation;
- You do **not** visit military bases; or
- You do **not** visit secure federal facilities.



**If you have a valid U.S. passport, you are NOT required to have a REAL ID to fly.**

**Current Illinois driver's licenses and identification cards will continue to be accepted at airports until May 7, 2025.**

For additional information:

[REALID.ilsos.gov](http://REALID.ilsos.gov)  
833-503-4074



ALEXI GIANNOULIAS  
Secretary of State





# SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

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

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

## PASTOR

Reverend Francisco Ortega

## PERMANENT DEACONS

Mike Barnish  
Giulio Camerini  
Gabriel Nevarez  
Eduardo Rodriguez  
Dwight Sullivan, Sr.

## RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

SUN: 9am - 2pm (St. Eulalia)  
MON: 12pm - 8pm (Sacred Heart)  
TUES: 10am - 6pm (Sacred Heart)  
WED: CLOSED  
THURS: 10am - 6pm (Sacred Heart)  
FRI: 12pm - 8pm (Sacred Heart)  
SAT: CLOSED

## PARISH CONTACT INFO

PHONE: 708-344-0757  
EMAIL: shseparish@archchicago.org  
WEBSITE: shsparish.org

## MASS SCHEDULE

### SATURDAYS

4:30p English at Sacred Heart  
6:00p Spanish at Sacred Heart

### SUNDAYS

8:30a English at Sacred Heart  
10:30a English at St. Eulalia  
10:30a Spanish at Sacred Heart  
12:30p Spanish at St. Eulalia

### WEEKDAYS

8:00a English at Sacred Heart

## Sacred Heart & St. Eulalia Parish "BELLS & BOWS" CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR 2024

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 7th, 2024  
10:00am—5:00pm  
In Sacred Heart's  
Marian Hall



## WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING EARLY VENDOR REGISTRATION

We are looking for crafters and artisans that are interested in participating in this event.

If you are interested, please call the Sacred Heart Rectory office at 708-344-0757 Ext 119.



SPRED is a parish-based ministry that provides faith formation and spiritual nourishment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages and function levels.

The goal of SPRED is to help children, teens and adults with disabilities develop an awareness of God in their lives; of themselves as an integral part of the parish community and the entire Church.

Please leave a message with **Brenda Diaz** via call or text at **773-629-3966** if you are interested or know someone that would benefit from this ministry. Spanish speakers may also call **Diego León** at **312-445-1445**. Classes are planned to be held at Sacred Heart Church in the future.



## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION (2-Year Program per Sacrament)

### REQUIREMENTS:

1. Baptism Certificate
2. Birth Certificate
3. First Communion Certificate\*  
(\*for 1st Year of Confirmation)

Please contact the parish's Religious Education office at 708-344-0757 ext. 105

The Religious Education office is located in the basement of the Parish Rectory office at 819 N 16th Ave., Melrose Park, IL.

# SACRED HEART & ST. EULALIA PARISH

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

PHONE: 708-344-0757

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS



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

Every First Friday of the month **7:00pm** at **Sacred Heart**.

Next dates: **September 6 & October 4**

### Second & Third Saturday Chaplet of Divine Mercy

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



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

**Sept. 12 & 26** at **St. Eulalia**. **Sept. 19** at **Sacred Heart**.  
**October 10 & 24** at **St. Eulalia**. **October 17** at **Sacred Heart**.

### St. Eulalia August Fest on AUGUST 25

**10:30am—3pm** at **St. Eulalia Church**. Food, dancing & more!



### Women's Club Camaraderie Meeting on SEPTEMBER 3

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

### Our Lady of Cobre Mass on SEPTEMBER 8

**4pm** at **Sacred Heart Church**. Sweets in **Marian Hall** afterwards.



### Flauta Sale for Pastoral Leadership on SEPTEMBER 15

**8:30am—12:30pm** at **Sacred Heart**. Raffles will also be held.

### Worship Concert on SEPTEMBER 27

**7:00pm** at **St. Eulalia Church**. **\$10 donation** for entry.  
Donations are used to support formation of Parish leaders.



### Pasta Dinner & DJ on OCTOBER 9

**October 19** at **Sacred Heart Church** from **6:00pm-10:00pm**.



# Dominican Literacy Center Continues to Provide English Instruction and More ...

The Dominican Literacy Center originally began in Chicago, at the request of the pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in 1996. In 2008, the building housing the center was deemed to need extensive repairs and could not be used. In June of 2008, the center was graciously welcomed to rent a part of Sacred Heart Convent in Melrose Park, where it has continued to provide English instruction for the past 14 years.

The goal of the Dominican Literacy Center is the empowerment of persons who experience personal and economic limitations within our English-speaking society. Through literacy education and personal relationships, we strive to provide a small step toward eliminating racial and cultural prejudice and stereotypes, as well as a step up for persons seeking improvement in their personal, familial and economic abilities.

The Dominican Literacy Center provides weekly one and half hour tutored sessions in which one student meets with one tutor. The center provides tutoring in speaking, reading and writing English, as well as tutoring in preparation for the Citizenship interview and exam. This individualized instruction is provided for immigrant women and men (ages 17+) who are – endeavoring to reduce literacy and its consequential effects of isolation (due to their inability to communicate in English with health care providers, children’s teachers, neighbors, co-workers, community leaders and/or first responders); in low-level jobs (due to lack of training or skills, or an inability to demonstrate their already achieved skills and knowledge); powerless to supervise their adolescent children or to influence systemic change; lacking confidence to enroll in traditional classes and or fear of requesting help when needed.

## English Classes

English classes are provided for those who want to learn to speak, read or write in English. One student meets with one tutor, once a week.

These classes are offered at the Dominican Literacy Center, 1503 Rice Street, in Melrose Park (near Sacred Heart/St. Eulalia Parish).

Our program also assists persons studying for their Citizenship interview/exam.

We presently offer classes on Monday through Thursday, in the mornings and afternoons.

Please call Sr. Judith Curran at (708) 338-0659.

**Dominican Literacy Center**  
1503 Rice Street • Melrose Park, IL 60160

## English Classes for Women

### Clases de Inglés para mujeres

Clases de Inglés para aprender como hablar, leer y escribir.

Clases para mujeres que quieren aprender a leer, escribir y hablar en Inglés serán ofrecidas en el Centro Dominicano de Alfabetización, 1503 Rice St.

Nuestro programa tambien ayuda a hombres y mujeres que están estudiando para pasar el examen de ciudadanía.

En este momento, tenemos maestras disponibles para clases por las mañanas.

Si a usted le gustaria aprender Inglés mejor, por favor llamar a Hermana Judith Curran – (708) 338-0659.

**Centro Dominicano de Alfabetización**  
Calle Arroz 1503 • Parque Melrose, IL 60160

# PORTABLE RESTROOM RENTALS

## SINGLE RESTROOM RENTAL UNITS AVAILABLE



• PORTABLE RESTROOMS

• RESTROOM TRAILERS

• SPECIAL EVENTS & MORE

## CALL MIKE: 815-210-4477

MIKE.MATUSZAK@PORTABLEJOHN.COM

# Proviso Public Partnership Awarded \$500K Grant from Cook County Health

## Grant Will Expand In-School Counseling Services

The Proviso Public Partnership (PPP), in collaboration with the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission, is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of grant for nearly half a million dollars from Cook County Health's Stronger Together: Building a More Equitable Behavioral Health System in Cook County Initiative.

"The PPP currently supports five schools in Proviso Township with counselors that offer behavioral health services for students and this grant will help us reach more Proviso residents," said PPP President Mike Corrigan. "Not only does this program give us the opportunity to support students, but it opens the door to their family and lets them know that we have a wide variety of programs that might benefit other people in their network."

The Proviso Public Partnership was awarded \$499,960.67 for its project titled, The Proviso Comprehensive School Program (PCSP). The program provides school-based behavioral health services within Proviso Township communities, including Maywood, Melrose Park, Northlake, Bellwood, Hillside and Stone Park. President Corrigan expects that the grant from Cook County Health will help them more than double the number of schools where they provide behavioral health care services.

"The PPP is incredibly grateful to Cook County and the Stronger Together Initiative for their support of our Proviso Comprehensive School Program," said Proviso Public Partnership Director Joe Vasilevski. "We are excited to see where this collaborative partnership takes the PPP and are looking forward to continue serving members of the Proviso community with their behavioral health needs."

The Stronger Together Initiative aims to address behavioral health inequities across the region's system of care through increased systems alignment, enhanced system quality, and the expansion of access to early intervention and prevention, treatment, support, recovery, and crisis assessment and care. Fifty-three organizations were selected, with applicants that serve communities that score the highest on the Social-Vulnerability Index receiving priority.

This initiative, led by the Office of Behavioral Health at Cook County Health (CCH) is supported by funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury, under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocated to CCH by Cook County Government.

"This initiative highlights how government and other sectors of our community can work together to benefit the greater good," Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle said. "This is a historic opportunity to make meaningful change in Cook County for generations."

"I am grateful to President Preckwinkle, and the Cook County Board of Commissioners for entrusting us as stewards of these funds to help address the broad behavioral health needs we see across Cook County," said Cook County Health Interim CEO Dr. Erik Mikaitis. "The community-focused institutions awarded today will make a significant impact in expanding access to comprehensive, culturally appropriate behavioral health prevention, treatment and recovery services. As a leader and convener in this space, Cook County Health knows that we are truly stronger together."

### **About Proviso Public Partnership**

The Proviso Public Partnership is a community based nonprofit organization created in 2013. Our mission is to advance behavioral wellness by advocating, coordinating and providing services that enhance the well-being of children, adults and seniors in our community.

### **About Cook County Health**

One of the largest public health systems in the nation, Cook County Health (CCH) serves as the safety-net for health care in Chicago and suburban Cook County. CCH is comprised of two hospitals, a robust network of more than a dozen community health centers, the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, the Cook County Department of Public Health, Correctional Health Services, which provides health care to individuals at the Cook County Jail and the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, and CountyCare, a Medicaid managed care health plan. Through the health system and the health plan, CCH cares for more than 500,000 individuals each year, and its physicians are experts in their fields, committed to providing their patients with comprehensive, compassionate and cutting-edge care. Today, CCH is transforming the provision of health care in Cook County by promoting community-based primary and preventive care, growing an innovative, collaborative health plan, and enhancing the patient experience.

### **About Cook County Government**

Cook County is the second largest county in the United States representing 5.2 million residents in Illinois. The President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners is the chief executive officer (CEO) of Cook County and oversees the Offices Under the President and presides as president of the Forest Preserves of Cook County.







# Proviso Township Handyman Program

## Late Summer 2024 – 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 • Clarence E. Thomas  
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.  
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 Maywood • Melrose Park • Northlake • North Riverside • Stone Park • Westchester • Western Springs

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

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

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

**MICHAEL A. CORRIGAN, SUPERVISOR**

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

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

**Joseph Christopher, Trustee • Clarence E. Thomas, Trustee**

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

***Thank You Mayor Serpico!***



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*Illinois State Representative*  
**NORMA HERNANDEZ**  
*77th District*



*Illinois State Representative  
 Norma Hernandez*

## Rep. Norma Hernandez Hosts End Of Session Town Hall

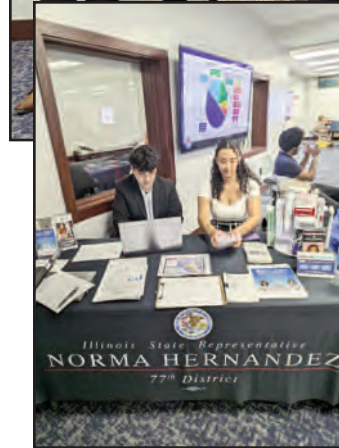
On Thursday, July 25, Rep. Norma Hernandez held her annual end of session town hall in conjunction with Senate President Don Harmon. Those in attendance consisted of members from our senior community, elected officials and community organizations. The town hall consisted of two portions, a



joint presentation and Q&A session led by both Rep. Hernandez and Senate President Harmon. They reported on the passing of this year's fiscal budget and accomplishments by the General Assembly.

They shared good news like the passing of a responsible balanced budget for the sixth year in a row, the elimination of the bill backlog by paying our bills on time, fully funding our pension obligations and education funding commitments, and having over \$2 billion in the state's Rainy Day Fund.

Key highlights during the joint presentation were local government resources receiving \$1 billion and developmental disabilities services gaining \$2.4 billion. During the Q&A session, residents asked about various topics ranging from the status of the Chicago Bears' stadium, property tax reform and health insurance access. Other budget items highlighted were the allocation of \$100 million for DCFS and \$350 million for K-12 education, as well as committing \$10 million to protect against food insecurity.



Rep. Norma Hernandez spoke about protecting Illinois communities and making health care more accessible.

She highlighted important key notes to protect Illinois communities, such as allocating \$45 million for "Reimagine Public Safety" to fund local intervention efforts, as well as enhancing law enforcement by \$30 million statewide for crime prevention to protect against gun violence and community-based violence. Rep. Hernandez emphasized the importance of our youth and highlighted the allocation of \$200 million to summer youth groups and camps to keep children safe and engaged while creating safer communities.

When addressing health care access, Rep. Hernandez emphasized the necessity for affordable medication for seniors and those who rely on daily medication. The efforts made to make health care more accessible.

Rep. Hernandez voiced a list of health care topics she is working on, like banning prior authorization for crisis mental health care, improving network adequacy by addressing the issue of "ghost networks" and ending unchecked rate increases by large group insurance companies.

On the workforce level, Rep. Hernandez addressed the need for a wage increase for caregivers and direct service professionals who care for our most vulnerable population by expanding the hours of availability to current clients through the Community Care Program with the aid of \$159M.

The town hall was a great opportunity for residents to meet with state staff and hear from Rep. Norma Hernandez on matters important to them, as well as to learn more about the various accomplishments throughout the 77th District of Illinois."

## Rep. Hernandez Joins State Leaders at O'Hare Press Conference

State Rep. Norma Hernandez joined House Speaker Chris Welch, Senate President Don Harmon and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker for a press conference at O'Hare International Airport for an announcement from United Airlines led by company President Brett J. Hart.

State leaders highlighted the role that Illinois' SAF tax credits played in bringing sustainable aviation fuel to one of the largest airports in the U.S., as United Airlines is set to purchase 1 million gallons of sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF, at O'Hare International Airport located in the 77th District of Illinois.

Rep. Norma Hernandez stated, "This initiative was made possible through the passing of legislation in the General Assembly and is a step forward in helping make our state more sustainable and creating a more eco-friendly environment."





# 77th District Summer 2024 Internship Program Participants

As a continuation of our youth engagement programming, the Office of State Representative Norma Hernandez took on three interns this summer to give them the opportunity to learn more about her office and how state government



works. This was the second summer that Rep. Hernandez took on interns. Here's a small description of who they are.

Yuliana Castro, 17 years old, graduated from East Leyden High School in 2024 and has ambitions to get a Ph.D in biology at the University of Illinois Chicago. When asked how she feels about her internship she said it was the "best opportunity that I had coming



ing into the workforce, [it] provided me with many new tools to use in my personal and academic endeavors."

Diego Hernandez, 16 years old, will graduate from Intrinsic High School in 2026, he aspires to major in political science and criminal justice. When asked about the internship, he said "It's helped me develop as a person and it's helped introduce me into the world of civic engagement. It's helped me view the government from a different perspective and it showed me the work that goes into everything."

Rachel De Haro, 21 years old, graduated from Addison Trail High School in 2021 and is working toward an urban planning BA at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. When asked about the internship, she said "It's helped me realize I can reach my goals and that it means the world to average people when they receive help with finances, housing, etc."

Our 2024 summer interns were able to attend multiple events with Rep. Hernandez and work alongside staff throughout the summer at our Melrose Park office, and to help with outreach at tabling events. They learned a lot from the state district office staff and the communities of the 77th District.

## 77th District Youth Engagement Program Updates

The Youth Ambassadors Program aims to provide many opportunities for our youth to connect with local elected officials and community leaders who have made a positive impact in their community. We've had the honor of hosting



many guests to speak to our students about the importance of civic engagement and explain their roles and responsibilities in nurturing it.

Recently, we were honored to welcome Congresswoman Delia C. Ramirez and Senate President Don Harmon, who had the opportunity to share their experiences of serving in government. Youth ambassadors had the opportunity to



meet with them and ask questions about what motivated them as youth to get involved.

Our 77th District Youth Ambassadors Program consists of 10 students from various high schools within our district, including West Leyden High School, East Leyden High School, Proviso Math & Science Academy (PMSA), Addison Trail High School and many others.

These students are divided into cohorts based on township, and each cohort actively participates in attending library, village and board of education meetings. Our youth ambassadors attend local government meetings to learn about the process of passing ordinances and new programs, and to understand the importance of staying informed about community affairs. They meet with our representative once a month to provide updates on these meetings, offering a learning opportunity for our youth and allowing the representative to hear their perspectives on what's occurring in the district.

The Youth Ambassadors Program serves as a platform for the students within the 77th District. Through engagement with individuals like Congresswoman Delia C. Ramirez and Senate President Don Harmon, our youth gain knowledge of civic responsibility and community

leadership. Their participation in various municipal meetings and interactions with our representatives not only empowers them, but also strengthens relationships within our community. We are proud of the progress our ambassadors have made and remain committed to expanding youth programs and opportunities in our district.





# 16th District Organizations Receive Over \$2.3 Million in Starting Block Grants

Nine organizations that work with communities and residents within Cook County's 16th District received \$857,900 in grant funding through the second round of Cook County's Starting Block Grant initiative. In total, 24 16th District organizations received \$2,317,640 in grant funding through the first and second rounds of Starting Block Grants, with \$1,459,740 distributed to 15 organizations in the first round and \$857,900 distributed to nine organizations in the second round.

"Throughout the 16th District, countless community organizations are doing incredible work for our residents," said Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. "These organizations know their communities, where the need is, and are in constant communications with residents and local stakeholders. I am so thrilled to see this funding go to the 16th District to help these organizations continue to do important work."



Cook County Commissioner  
Frank J. Aguilar

The grant initiative is primarily funded through the Cook County Equity Special Purpose Fund, created to address historic and continued disinvestment and inequities in Cook County with additional funding from the grantmaking budget of the Cook County Justice Advisory Council (JAC). The JAC manages the Starting Block Grant initiative on behalf of the offices under the Cook County Board president.

"Cook County has long recognized the impact community-based organizations have in the lives of individuals and the vital role they play in communities, particularly those that have been historically underserved," said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. "Despite being key stakeholders that advance the health, safety and economic success of residents and communities, funding for these organizations to address key operational needs has been limited. We are proud that the Starting Block Grant initiative fills this critical gap and will help many nonprofit organizations achieve greater stability now, and for the future."

The grant initiative aims to increase equity in grantmaking in Cook County by supporting the individualized capacity building efforts of nonprofit organizations with annual operating budgets under \$1 million. The initiative, funded by the Cook County Equity Special Purpose Fund and the Cook County Justice Advisory Council (JAC), recognizes that smaller and grassroots organizations play important roles in communities, but often face barriers to securing consistent funding or meeting goals for growth.

Awarded organizations receive funding for eligible capacity building priorities, including strategic planning and partnership development; creation of diversity, equity and inclusion plans; staff training; and improvements in bookkeeping, data management, technology and more.

"The Starting Block Grant initiative was designed in response to feedback and observation that many smaller community organizations are held back by operational limitations or lack the funding to meet meaningful goals that are just out of reach", said Avik Das, executive director of the JAC. "We see these organizations doing incredibly impactful work in communities with

limited resources and support. Starting Block Grants are an investment in their long-term sustainability and success, designed to help them innovate and thrive in a changing world and ultimately serve the community at a higher level."

A list of each organization and the grant funding they received can be found below. Those bolded represent the second round of awardees:

**Black Midwifery Collective: \$99,600** • Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance: \$87,935  
Chicago Community and Workers' Rights: \$100,000 • **Chicago Dance History Project: \$100,000**  
Corazon Community Services: \$100,000 • **EMMAUS: \$100,000** • Healing to Action: \$100,000  
**I Am A Gentleman: \$58,650** • John Howard Association of Illinois: \$100,000 • Latino Union of Chicago: \$100,000  
**Latinx Digital Leaders Now: \$100,000** • LEAP: \$99,285 • M.E.A.N. Girls Empowerment: \$100,000  
**Mind Matters Chicago: \$100,000** • Rainbow for All Children: \$80,574 • **Sista Afya Community Care NFP: \$100,000**  
Snow City Arts: \$100,000 • The Monroe Foundation: \$99,146 • Bridge to Freedom: \$92,800  
Changing Oasis: \$100,000 • **The CHORE Foundation: \$99,650**  
The Firehouse Dream: \$100,000 • **ULON: \$100,000** • Un Nuevo Despertar – A New Awakening NFP: \$100,000

## Loyola Medicine, Cook County and Undue Medical Debt Partner to Abolish More Than \$112 Million in Medical Debt

Loyola Medicine, Undue Medical Debt, a national nonprofit, and Cook County's Medical Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI), have reached an agreement that will result in the erasure of \$112.12 million worth of non-Medicare/Medicaid medical debt for Loyola's patients in 2024.

In the Catholic Jesuit tradition, Loyola is committed to providing health care services to all patients. With a commitment to patients and communities, Loyola has partnered with Undue Medical Debt, to examine and acquire accounts for erasure that are over two years old, with individuals making at or below 400% of the federal poverty level or medical debt representing more than 5% of an individual's annual household income. More than 60,000 Loyola



patients qualified for medical debt relief. Undue Medical Debt branded envelopes will arrive in the mail to those benefiting from medical debt relief.

"When individuals and their loved ones face medical issues, getting healthy should be the top priority," said Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. "This initiative will allow for people who are unable to pay their medical bills another chance to live their lives fully. This is a targeted approach to those who need help the most, and will give individuals more money to save for their future and participate in the economy. Thank you to our health partners and Cook County everywhere for making this life-changing initiative a reality."

Cook County's Medical Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) was a significant contributor to this partnership, with over 44,000 beneficiaries receiving nearly \$80.5 million of medical debt relief through the Loyola partnership. Since the program's launch in 2022, Cook County's MDRI has now abolished over \$382 million in medical debt for more than 213,000 Cook County residents.

"Cook County is committed to alleviating the burden of medical debt on our residents," said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. "Through the Medical Debt Relief Initiative, we have been able to provide substantial financial relief to over 213,000 individuals, including more than 44,000 through our partnership with Loyola Medicine. Today represents a critical step in our ongoing efforts to promote economic stability and health equity across Cook County communities."

Undue Medical Debt is a nonprofit that acquires medical debts belonging to individuals who are financially burdened and then abolishes those debts. Medical debt relief cannot be requested and is source-based, meaning Undue can abolish debts only for past-due accounts belonging to provider partners like Loyola Medicine. Undue has two criteria for relief: individual or family income cannot be more than four times the federal poverty level and/or the individual's medical debt must be 5% or more of that person's gross annual income.

Loyola does not sell medical debt and never reports medical debt to credit bureaus or sends accounts to collections. Loyola is committed to working with patients to ensure they have sustainable health coverage; its financial counseling team helps patients navigate all public and private health coverage options.

In 2024, the federal poverty guideline is \$15,060 a year for an individual plus \$5,380 for each additional family member. "Working directly with providers like Loyola Medicine is an amazing win-win-win scenario," said Undue Medical Debt President and CEO Allison Sesso. "Our valued hospital partner is compensated for some of the care it provided (without having to sell accounts to a debt collector), patients are relieved of the financial and emotional burden of debt they can't pay, and communities are uplifted as a result."

"Our unwavering commitment to care for the whole person – body, mind and spirit – drives us," asserted Shawn Vincent, president and CEO of Loyola Medicine. "We understand that medical debt can be a daunting challenge for our patients. Our partnership with Undue and Cook County's Medical Debt Relief Initiative empowers us to relieve our patients of their medical debt to Loyola Medicine while simultaneously recovering a portion of that debt. This enables us to continue providing exceptional care to our patients and communities in a confident, responsible and sustainable manner."

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## News from Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias

# Illinois Streamlines Notary Public Application Process

## Giannoulias Encourages Illinoisans to Sign Up Online

Illinois residents interested in becoming notary publics can now apply online as of Aug. 1, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced recently. The program builds on the new Electronic Notary System administered by the Secretary of State's Office that launched in April as part of its effort to modernize operations.

"Modernizing the notary process in Illinois has made it easier for customers who want to notarize documents without having to leave their home, but we've also streamlined the process for prospective notaries and those renewing," Giannoulias said. "Applicants are no longer required to submit paper forms, eliminating the cumbersome paper-based submission process and reducing processing times."

There are currently 148,059 notaries public and nearly 600 who are also electronic notaries public commissioned in Illinois.

As part of the new system, anyone wishing to become a notary must submit their application and current notaries must renew their registrations online.

For online applications, applicants must be Illinois residents and will need:

- A valid Illinois driver's license or ID card.
- An electronic copy of their Notary Public Study Course Completion Certificate from an approved study course provider.
- An electronic copy of their completed form I 263 or I 264 (Notary Public Bond), signed and certified by a qualified surety bond company.

Current notary publics who are also adding an electronic notary designation will need:

- An electronic copy of their electronic signature that was approved by their electronic notarization system provider.
- The name of their electronic notarization system provider.

Interested individuals can access the notary public application and view additional requirements by visiting [https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/index/notary/online\\_notary/home.html](https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/index/notary/online_notary/home.html).

# 2024 Illinois Secretary of State's Vehicle Show Set for Sept. 7

## Individuals Interested in Displaying Their Vehicles Must Pre-Register Before August 30

The Illinois Secretary of State's Office is highlighting the 60th Anniversary of the iconic 1964 Ford Mustang at its annual Vehicle Show in Springfield. The event will take place, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 7, in the State Capitol Complex at the corner of Edwards Street and College Street.

"The Vehicle Show brings together car enthusiasts and families from across the Midwest to downtown Springfield," Secretary of State Giannoulias said. "A broad collection of classic vehicles featuring all makes and models will be on display this year. We look forward to hosting the event that will help draw visitors to Springfield and provide a boost to local businesses."

"The Illinois Secretary of State's Classic Vehicle Show is an exciting event that provides a unique experience to visitors and local residents alike," said Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher. "This iconic car show has left an indelible mark on automotive history, embodying the spirit of ingenuity and craftsmanship. This event also provides us with the opportunity to showcase Springfield's finest businesses, restaurants and historic downtown."

Owners that wish to display their vehicle at the annual show must pre-register by Aug. 30. For more information or for a brochure, including a Vehicle Show Registration Form, please call (312) 793-8876 or email [vehicleshow@ilsos.gov](mailto:vehicleshow@ilsos.gov). The show's full schedule, which will be held rain or shine, is available online. Spectators who are interested in checking out all the vehicles on display can attend free of charge.

The event will honor one vehicle with the Illinois State Champion Award, given to the vehicle judged best by the show's advisory committee. First-, second- and third-place winners will also receive awards in at least 60 classes.

Ford began manufacturing the Mustang in March 1964, creating a new class of automobiles known as pony cars. The Mustang's styling proved wildly popular and inspired other manufacturers to copy its look.

First held in 1949 as an Antique Auto Meet, the Secretary of State's Vehicle Show features some of Illinois' finest antique and classic vehicles, sports cars, motorcycles, trucks and tractors.

Last year's event brought more than 1,000 visitors to downtown Springfield with more than 600 Illinois drivers purchasing specialty plates.



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# Giannoulas Announces First-Ever Illinois DMV+, Melrose Park DMV Offers Additional Services and One-Stop-Shop Efficiencies

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas' Office has transformed its Melrose Park facility into a DMV+ and "One-Stop-Shop" design, offering new services and reduced wait times.

The Melrose Park location marks the first DMV+ facility, which includes Secretary of State services that have never been accessible at an Illinois DMV location. These include specialized services from its Business, Index and Personnel Departments that would otherwise require an in-person visit to a Secretary of State's Office located in downtown Chicago or Springfield.

In addition, the DMV+ also includes a One-Stop-Shop design that combines both driver's and vehicle services, allowing customers to access service at a single customer service counter and reducing the number of steps to create a more intuitive flow. It also frees up space for additional service stations and appointments to accommodate more customers.

"Our continued effort to modernize the office allows us to not only create efficiencies, but also to reimagine the services we can provide and come up with innovative ways to meet customers' needs," Giannoulas said. "A DMV+ brings more services directly to our customers and their communities, and doesn't require them to spend valuable time traveling downtown or to Springfield."

"This will make it easier for customers to get vehicle stickers or renew their licenses, all while helping local businesses," said Senate President Don Harmon (39th Senate District – Oak Park). "Convenient, efficient customer service is always the goal."

"I'm thrilled our community is the first in the state to have DMV+ services that makes it faster to process driving and vehicle transactions and promotes employment opportunities and supports our businesses," said State Rep. Norma Hernandez (77th District – Melrose Park). "Now residents can skip the trip by not needing to travel downtown for in-person services."

"This upgraded DMV will help our community get the services they need without wasting their time waiting in line," said Melrose Park Mayor Ron Serpico Sr. "The impact will be significant and noticeable for not only Melrose Park residents and families who have busy schedules, but for those living in nearby communities."

Prior to its redesign, the Melrose Park DMV was already one of 44 designated facilities statewide that was part of the the Secretary of State's Skip-the-Line Program introduced last fall, which requires residents to schedule an appointment for in-person visits at its busiest DMVs.

The new services offered in a DMV+ facility include:

- **Business Services:** In-person expedited services; obtaining certified copies of business records; filing documents, including articles of incorporation and amendments for corporations and various types of LLCs; filing reinstatements to return their business to good standing; and filing trademarks with ILSOS. These services currently require customers to visit the Business Services Office in Chicago or Springfield, or to conduct their transaction through the mail, which delays processing time.
- **Index Services:** Walk-in service for customers obtaining apostilles and certificates of authority for foreign use documents. Due to the sensitive nature of the documents being certified, customers must provide physical original copies and services are not offered digitally. Customers are currently required to visit the Index Department in Chicago or Springfield or mail their documents to the office. The DMV+ offers on-site processing and certification.
- **Personnel Services:** Employment testing required for most entry-level and all DMV employees. Currently, prospective employees must travel to Chicago or Springfield for in-person testing. The office will also offer a hub of public-use computers for those with limited access or need assistance to submit job applications.

## **One-Stop-Shop**

The Melrose Park DMV is the first DMV+ and marks the fifth Secretary of State facility to complete the One-Stop-Shop upgrade.

The One-Stop-Shop renovation will allow customers to access service at a single customer service counter and will include updated signage to create a more logical, intuitive flow, making the DMV process more efficient and allowing for expanded services.

As a part of the Secretary of State's ongoing modernization efforts, the new DMV experience will save customers considerable time and several steps by offering both vehicle and driver services at a single-service counter.

Driver services and vehicle services employees at "One-Stop-Shop" DMVs are now cross-trained to provide both sets of services.

At a single service counter, customers will be able to obtain the following services – renew a driver's license or state ID; apply for a REAL ID; register or renew a vehicle registration/obtain vehicle stickers; convert a Temporary Visitor Driver's License (TVDL) to a Standard DL; order a new license plate; register to vote; and join the Illinois Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.





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

# **Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs' Plan to Allow Leftover College Savings Funds to Be Used For Retirement Signed Into Law**

## **Frerichs Thanks Governor, Lawmakers for Bipartisan Approval**

Parents who don't use all the money in their Illinois 529 College Savings Accounts (Bright Start and Bright Directions) are now able to roll over the funds into a Roth IRA under Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs' plan that was signed into law.

"This will give parents another option when deciding what to do with the money they've saved for their children if they don't use all of it," said Treasurer Frerichs, who thanked Gov. JB Pritzker for signing the legislation, and State Sen. Steve Stadelman and State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock for sponsoring it. "A common question we get from parents is what they can do with their Illinois 529 money if their child doesn't go to college or gets a scholarship and there is money left over in the account, and we have good news to share with them."

The option is possible because Congress approved a measure in December 2022 changing Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code to authorize tax- and penalty-free rollovers from college savings plans to Roth IRAs, with some limitations. The measure took effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

To take effect in Illinois, however, lawmakers needed to change state law to allow the Roth IRA rollover option for Bright Start and Bright Directions 529 college savings account owners.

"We are pleased to be able to tell families who are responsibly saving for their children's future education that any unused funds can now be used to help start saving for their child's retirement without penalty," said Blair-Sherlock of Villa Park.

"We worked together to approve this common-sense change that will help families who open college savings accounts for their children," said Stadelman, whose district includes Rockford.

State law already allows parents to leave leftover money in a Bright Start account for future use by another family member going to college or roll over the money into an Illinois ABLE account. The money also can be taken out as a nonqualified withdrawal, but there are tax implications and people are encouraged to consult a tax professional.

The federal law set some limitations on college savings rollovers, including a \$35,000 lifetime limit on transfers, which also are subject to annual Roth IRA contribution limits (this year they are \$7,000 for people under 50). In addition, rollovers must be made to the college savings account beneficiary and not the owner. And rollovers only can be made from 529 accounts that have been active for 15 years and no contributions or investment earnings in the last five years are eligible for rollover.

## **Treasurer Frerichs Makes Record \$130 Million in Investment Earnings for State Portfolio During May** **\$90.9 Million Earned for Cities and School Districts Through Illinois Funds**

The State Treasurer's Office made a record \$130.1 million in investment earnings from the state investment portfolio in May, Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs announced recently.

Treasurer Frerichs is the state's chief investment and banking officer. He is responsible for investing state revenue in the state investment portfolio. So far in Fiscal Year 2024, Frerichs' Office has earned more than \$1.3 billion for the state portfolio.

"Every dollar we earn in interest is a dollar that lawmakers don't have to raise in taxes," Frerichs said. "The State Treasurer's Office cannot solve all of our problems, but we can be part of the solution."

Also in May, nearly \$90.9 million in gross investment earnings was earned for cities, villages, school districts, counties and other units of government that take part in the highly rated Illinois Funds local government investment pool the State Treasurer's Office operates. So far in Fiscal Year 2024, the office has earned more than \$973.6 million for the Illinois Funds, which has received the highest rating of AAA from Fitch, a national credit ratings agency.

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

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# Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs Returns Purple Heart Medal to Family of Pearl Harbor Veteran

## 11th Medal Returned Under Frerichs' Operation Purple Heart

Ahead of the Independence Day holiday, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs returned a missing Purple Heart medal to the family of a late Army Air Corps veteran from Park Ridge.

The medal, given to those wounded or killed in military combat, belonged to Jerome Even, who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and rose to the rank of master sergeant. Mr. Even put the medal in a bank safe deposit box. He died in April 2014 at age 92 and the contents of the safe deposit box ended up at the State Treasurer's Office, which works to reunite people with unclaimed property.

"Jerome Even was a true hero, part of the greatest generation, who bravely served his country at such a crucial time in our nation's history," Treasurer Frerichs said. "We honor his sacrifice. I am grateful we returned his Purple Heart to his family, where it belongs."

The medal was returned as a result of Operation Purple Heart, an unprecedented mission to return Purple Heart medals to their rightful owners. In May, Treasurer Frerichs unveiled a web page listing Purple Heart medals the Treasurer's Office is seeking to return.

Jim Even, one of Jerome Even's sons, said about a dozen people who had seen coverage of Treasurer Frerichs' news conference reached out to him asking if the medal might belong to his family.

"I said, 'Oh my goodness.' I didn't know he had anything left in that safe deposit box. It was a shock. We were very surprised and happy," said Jim Even, who then contacted the State Treasurer's Unclaimed Property Team. "The people there are just wonderful and just walked me through everything with the forms. I couldn't wait to share this whole story with my siblings when we all got together."

Master Sergeant Even was awarded the Purple Heart by Headquarters, 7th Bombardment Group on Feb. 3, 1942, according to military paperwork in the safe deposit box. Jim Even said his father told him the Purple Heart was earned during the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

"My recollection is that he was doing guard duty overnight. He and his fellow soldiers saw planes flying over the island going toward the harbor that had rising suns on the tail, which was the Japanese Zeros insignia," Jim Even said his father told him.

"Bombs started falling and he realized, 'Oh my gosh, this is for real.' He went into the barracks where he was guarding the officers. He said, 'Air raid,' and they didn't hear it because it was from far away and the sound hadn't traveled. They didn't believe him and started throwing shoes at him. And then a bomb hit close and everyone ran for shelter. And that's how he was wounded in the back of his leg during the bombing," Even said his father told him.

Jim Even said he found letters from his grandmother to his father from Dec. 8 and Dec. 12 asking if her son was alive. His father didn't get the letters until a week later and he was able to telegraph that he was OK.

Master Sergeant Even also earned numerous other awards during World War II, including an Air Medal, Good Conduct Ribbon and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbon with four battle stars.

Treasurer Frerichs has now returned 11 Purple Heart medals to their rightful owners, the most by any administration in Illinois, but there is still more work to be done.

"Our ask is simple. If you recognize a name, then reach out to them or their family because maybe we have their Purple Heart," Frerichs said. "You also can reach my office through [operationpurpleheart.org](http://operationpurpleheart.org)."

A full list of unclaimed Purple Hearts is available online at <https://illinoistreasurer.gov/purplehearts/>.

Military medals are among the most difficult items to return because neither the armed forces nor the federal government maintains a comprehensive list of awardees.

A thorough vetting of inquiries will occur once an electronic claim is made at [icash.illinoistreasurer.gov](http://icash.illinoistreasurer.gov).

### About Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office is a powerful economic engine that invests in people to drive prosperity, development and growth throughout the state. As State Treasurer, Michael Frerichs (FRAIR'iks) is the state's Chief Investment and Banking Officer and actively manages approximately \$60 billion. The investments help families pay for college and trade school; workers save for a dignified retirement; and local governments process bill payments more efficiently so they can pass along the savings to taxpayers. The office provides financial institutions money to loan to farmers, small business owners, and qualified individuals at below-market rates because better jobs create stronger communities. The office operates the state's largest consumer-protection initiative, the missing money I-Cash program, which has returned a record-breaking \$2 billion since Frerichs was elected.







# ***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***

## **Gnome Hunt – Monday, Aug. 26 • 4-6 p.m.**

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

A band of gnomes are living outside on Trailside's grounds! Can you find them all? Pick up a sheet in our lobby with clues to where the gnomes are hidden.

Contact – (708) 366-6530/trailside.museum@cookcountyil.gov. Cost – Free.

## **Wildlife Connections – Tuesday, Aug. 27 • 10:30 a.m.-Noon**

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

Stop by the visitor center to learn about animals from the residents of Misericordia – Heart of Mercy.

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

## **Rise & Shine Hummingbirds – Wednesday, Aug. 28 • 6:30 a.m.**

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

Bring your coffee to wake up with the hummingbirds.

Registration required – Call (630) 257-2045.

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

## **Pond Paddle – Wednesday, Aug. 28 • 4-6 p.m.**

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

Enjoy an afternoon out paddling. Instruction, equipment and kayaks provided.

Registration required – Call (312) 533-5751.

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

## **Fridays in the Field/Fossils – Friday, Aug. 30 • 10 a.m.-Noon**

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

University of Illinois Extension Certified Master Naturalists will connect visitors with nature through inquiry-based activities.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyil.gov.

Cost – Free.

## **Raptors – Saturday, Aug. 31 • 2 p.m.**

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

Learn about birds of prey and how staff care for our ambassador raptors.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyil.gov.

Cost – Free.

## **I am a Scientist – Wednesday, Sept. 4 • 10 a.m.**

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

Ignite your child's sense of wonder and curiosity as we explore, experiment and make discoveries in the natural world. Ages 4-5 w/adult.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyil.gov.

## **Astronomy & Technology – Thursday, Sept. 5 • 8:30 p.m.**

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

Learn about various apps used to raise awareness of the impact of light pollution on nocturnal wildlife.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyil.gov.

## **Raptors – Saturday, Aug. 31 • 2 p.m.**

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

Learn about birds of prey and how staff care for our ambassador raptors.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyil.gov.

Cost – Free.

### **Sunrise Hike – Sunday, Sept. 8 • 6 a.m.**

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

Join us for a “before hours” hike to experience the dawning of a new day.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyiil.gov.

### **Partial Lunar Eclipse – Tuesday, Sept. 17 • 7:30-11 p.m.**

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

A partial total lunar eclipse will be a sight to see!

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyiil.gov.

### **Little Red Rocks – Thursday, Sept. 19 • 5-7 p.m.**

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

Perform or listen to music and poetry during an open-mic night at sunset.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyiil.gov.

### **Nature’s Art Box – Tuesday, Sept. 24 • 10:30 a.m.**

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

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

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyiil.gov.

### **Party for the Preserves – Saturday, Sept. 28 • 1 p.m.**

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

Celebrate National Public Lands Day by enjoying a nature walk and learning about the importance of green spaces.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyiil.gov.

### **Yoga – Saturday, Sept. 29 • 10-11 a.m.**

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

Enjoy an indoor all-levels yoga class with a certified instructor. Ages 18 and up.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyiil.gov.

### **Qigong – Thursday, Oct. 3 • 7:30-9 p.m.**

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

Learn qigong, a series of slow flowing movements and deep measured breaths, then walk in an Urban Night Sky Place.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyiil.gov.

### **Annual Arts and Crafts Fair – Sunday, Oct. 6 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

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

We’re celebrating our 59th Annual Arts and Craft Fair! Art of all styles will be sold by artists inspired by nature (outdoor event).

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyiil.gov.

### **Moon Walk – Thursday, Oct. 17 • 8:15 p.m.**

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

Let the full moon be our guide as we walk in the largest Urban Night Sky Place in the world.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyiil.gov.

### **Hispanic Heritage Celebration – Saturday, Oct. 19 • 1-3:30 p.m.**

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

Celebrate the conclusion of this special month by making traditional artwork for display on our Dia de los Muertos altar.

Registration required – Call Little Red Schoolhouse at (708) 839-6897.

Contact – (708) 839-6897/littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyiil.gov.

**Take some time  
to explore  
our website at  
[www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com) for  
additional events and  
valuable information  
linked to the  
Cook County  
Forest Preserves  
experience!**



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

Here's a list of some incredible current and upcoming attractions. Be sure to check out our website at [www.brookfieldzoo.org](http://www.brookfieldzoo.org) for additional happenings.

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

## Save the Dates for These Exciting Brookfield Zoo Chicago Events and Attractions!

### Zoo Run – Sunday, Sept. 8

Whether you choose to run or stroll at a leisurely pace in Brookfield Zoo Chicago's annual Zoo Run, you'll help support the more than 3,000 animals that slither, hop, swim, fly, swing and walk at the zoo 365 days a year. The fun-filled event features a chip-timed 5k race at 8:30 a.m., followed by a chip-timed 1-mile race for kids ages 4-13. Each runner receives commemorative Zoo Run swag, a bib containing a timing chip, and snacks and beverages. Runners can bring along family and friends for free to cheer them on and visit the animals after the races! Proceeds from the event benefit the zoo's Animal Care and Conservation Fund. To register and for further information, including pricing, visit [brookfieldzoo.org/events](http://brookfieldzoo.org/events) or call (708) 688-8000.



### First Responders Day – Sunday, Sept. 15

Join Brookfield Zoo Chicago in celebrating and showing appreciation for firefighters, EMS workers, police officers and other first responders on Sunday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Those entering the Zoo's South Gate will pass under an American flag displayed between ladder trucks from Brookfield and Riverside's fire departments.

At the Zoo's Roosevelt Fountain guests can meet with representatives from approximately 30 agencies from Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, who will be on hand to showcase the vehicles and equipment they use to keep their communities safe.

Zoogoers can take photos with first responders, as well as meet K-9 and therapy dogs from throughout Cook County. Youngsters will receive special giveaways (while supplies last) to remember their day.



### Hispanic Heritage Fest – NEW Saturday, Sept. 21

Join us at Brookfield Zoo Chicago this fall for a new, vibrant Hispanic Heritage Fest on Saturday, Sept. 21! Delight in live music, delectable cuisine, cultural performances and more – all included with your zoo admission for a day of celebration and exploration. For more information, visit [brookfieldzoo.org/events](http://brookfieldzoo.org/events) or call (708) 688-8000.



### Oktoberfest – Saturday, Sept. 28

Prost (cheers) to Oktoberfest and the season of donning your lederhosen and enjoying live polka music at Brookfield Zoo Chicago's Oktoberfest, presented by Leinenkugel's. The festive event, which takes place on the zoo's East Mall, is free with general admission. Zoogoers can also pick up sponsor giveaways while taking in the sounds of Oktoberfest. Additionally, a seasonal menu featuring bratwursts, sausages, pretzels with beer cheese and more is available for purchase. For more information, visit [brookfieldzoo.org/events](http://brookfieldzoo.org/events) or call (708) 688-8000.

## Recycling Event – Saturday, Sept. 28

If you weren't able to do a spring clean earlier in the year, Brookfield Zoo Chicago is hosting a fall recycling event. Drop off your unwanted electronics, textiles and used books, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the zoo's main parking lot located at 8400 31st St., in Brookfield. Representatives from Brookfield Zoo Chicago and its partner organizations – eWorks and USAgain – will be available to collect and recycle a variety of items. For a complete list of acceptable recyclables, visit [brookfieldzoo.org/events](http://brookfieldzoo.org/events) or call (708) 688-8000.

## Boo! at the Zoo

### Saturdays and Sundays, Oct. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20

Gather your ghoulfriends, and little ghosts and goblins, and head to Brookfield Zoo Chicago for its annual Boo! at the Zoo Halloween celebration. Families will have a fang-tastic time enjoying the fall season and the many themed photo frames and vignettes to take memorable snapshots. Take a spin on the Creepy Carousel or the zoo's Anniversary Ferris Wheel to view the park in its beautiful fall foliage. Zoogoers can learn about some not-so-scary critters during special zoo chats. Or, watch as some animals receive Halloween enrichment treats – pumpkins. Youngsters can receive their own sweet treat before they leave. For more information, visit [brookfieldzoo.org/events](http://brookfieldzoo.org/events) or call (708) 688-8000.

## Zoo After Dark: BOO's & Brews – NEW EVENT! Saturday, Oct. 19

Dress up in your favorite costume attire and have a ghoulishly fun time at Brookfield Zoo Chicago's new 21-and-over, after-hours Boo's & Brews. Enjoy the Halloween-themed dance party, eerie entertainment, frightening animal experiences, and chilling specialty food and drinks. For additional information, including pricing, visit [brookfieldzoo.org/events](http://brookfieldzoo.org/events) or call (708) 688-8000.



## Wines in the Wild Saturday, Nov. 9

Wines in the Wild features the perfect blend of wildlife and – you guessed it – wine! Join us, 7-10 p.m., for a wonderful evening in the newly renovated Discovery Center at Brookfield Zoo Chicago. The evening will include wine/liquor tastings with representatives from wineries and distilleries throughout the United States, delicious food from our catering team, the SSA Group, animal ambassadors, as well as a silent auction with unique travel, wine and Zoo-centric items! It's a night you won't want to miss! For additional information and to purchase tickets, visit [brookfieldzoo.org/events](http://brookfieldzoo.org/events) or call (708) 688-8393.



## Tree Trim Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 9-10

Does your community group want to get into the holiday spirit early? Join Brookfield Zoo Chicago in gearing up for our Holiday Magic celebration by participating in Tree Trim! Sponsoring a tree is a beautiful way to support the Zoo and celebrate the 43rd annual Holiday Magic. School groups, scout troops, families and companies are all welcome to participate in Tree Trim on Saturday, Nov. 9 and Sunday, Nov. 10. Once you have registered, date reservations are not required! Just pick the date (Nov. 9 or 10) that works best for your group, bring your tickets and come out to decorate. Trees go on sale Tuesday, Sept. 3. For more information, visit [brookfieldzoo.org/events](http://brookfieldzoo.org/events) or call (708) 688-8000.



## Reindeer Run Saturday, Nov. 16

Grab your glow sticks and running shoes, and join us on Saturday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m., for the Reindeer Run. With a 2-mile course entirely within Brookfield Zoo Chicago, you and your family can "fun run" under the lights and be the first to see the lights of Holiday Magic. Fun run individually or with your family and friends! Strollers are welcome and children riding in strollers during the race do not need to be registered. Only those walking or running need to be registered. Signup details will be announced later this year. Check [brookfieldzoo.org/events](http://brookfieldzoo.org/events) more information!

**For more details or a complete listing of the fun, family activities happening at Brookfield Zoo Chicago, check out [www.brookfieldzoo.org/events](http://www.brookfieldzoo.org/events) or call (708) 688-8000.**



# ComEd Joins YMCA and Goodwill to Graduate 89 Local Teens from Summer Job Training Program

## ComEd's CONSTRUCT Youth Academy Expands in Second Year to Prepare More Area Youth for Roles in the Growing Clean Energy Field

On July 26, ComEd, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and Goodwill Greater Milwaukee & Chicago hosted a graduation event for 89 teens who have completed summer job training that prepared them for emerging career opportunities in the clean energy and construction fields.

Through the CONSTRUCT Youth Academy Program, ComEd and its partner agencies are expanding access to training for local teens interested in careers in the fast-growing energy sector. Expanding training for local youth and job seekers is critical to preparing communities for the expected future job growth, with a recent study finding that the clean energy transition could add as many as 150,000 jobs in Illinois by 2050.



"With the clean energy transition set to create thousands of jobs in the years ahead, programs like CONSTRUCT Youth Academy are essential to creating pathways for more diverse local youth to join the utility field and to prepare our communities for a cleaner energy future," said Melissa Washington, senior vice president of Customer Operations and Strategic Initiatives at ComEd. "Through collaboration with incredible partners at the YMCA, Goodwill and numerous other agencies in the region, ComEd is expanding training programs to expose the next generation of leaders to knowledge and technology needed to unlock good-paying jobs in our fast-growing field."

During the three-week program, rising high school juniors and seniors learn about the wide range of careers in energy, from entry-level craft positions to roles in STEM, engineering and more. Students also have the chance to connect with industry leaders, visit ComEd training facilities and receive demonstrations on the latest technologies used by the energy company, like drones and electric vehicles.

ComEd launched the CONSTRUCT Youth Academy last year as part of its plan to build a pipeline of skilled and diverse talent needed to meet the evolving demand for clean energy and strengthen our power infrastructure in the face of increasingly severe weather tied to climate change. In partnership with the local YMCA and Goodwill, ComEd expanded training to five sites in Chicago, including a new site in Palatine. This allowed for a significant expansion of the program this year, up from 21 participants last year. Reflecting the diversity of ComEd's service territory, over 95% of program participants are people of color and a quarter of them are girls.

"There is no greater privilege than to empower young people to envision a future that they otherwise may never envision for themselves," said Martina "Tina" Hone, chief economic inclusion & equity officer, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. "The CONSTRUCT Youth Academy provided that opportunity to dozens of young people this summer, and our team is incredibly grateful to have been able to deliver this program at the YMCA again this year, alongside our phenomenal partners at ComEd and Goodwill."

This year, students participated in a community service event assembling dressers for people in need. Two participants from last year's cohort also served as mentors throughout the program, providing the opportunity to develop their leadership skills while offering support to those who are now in their shoes. The CONSTRUCT Youth Academy is set to return next summer with applications to open in the spring.

"At Goodwill, we are committed to joining partners like ComEd and the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago to open the door to opportunities for young Chicagoans," said Clayton Pryor, chief mission officer, Goodwill Greater Milwaukee & Chicago. "We are proud to be part of this effort by providing an additional program access point and skills training that empowers students to confidently enter a STEM or trade-focused career following graduation. We look forward to continuing helping this next generation of changemakers unlock their potential and build a foundation for continued success, career advancement and self-sufficiency."

"This program opened my eyes to new possibilities," said Gabriel Gaytan, Jr., CONSTRUCT Youth Academy graduate. "During the program, I decided I want a future job at ComEd, but every time we would learn about a new career I would change my mind about what I wanted to do. I can't remember the last time I was this excited about the future."

CONSTRUCT Youth Academy builds on the award-winning CONSTRUCT Infrastructure Academy, ComEd's premier workforce development program for adults looking to gain the skills needed for entry-level roles in construction and the utilities. To date, the program has graduated nearly 900 residents, with a majority of participants from diverse communities and a more than 70% job placement rate.

The CONSTRUCT Youth Academy Program is one example of ComEd's expanding STEM education and workforce development programs, which last year reached more than 2,000 local residents. In partnership with agencies and community organizations across the region, ComEd is expanding training opportunities for local youth and residents to help prepare for expected talent needs in the years ahead. For more on ComEd's education and career training offerings, please visit [www.ComEd.com/CleanEnergyJobs](http://www.ComEd.com/CleanEnergyJobs).

# ComEd Reaches 1 Gigawatt Milestone for Distributed Solar

## More than 59,000 DER Interconnected to Smart Grid, Rooftop Solar Drives Growth

Solar energy is shining brighter than ever in northern Illinois as ComEd today announced that it has interconnected more than 1 gigawatt of distributed energy resource (DER) capacity to the ComEd grid, including 57,780 residential rooftop solar systems. The more than 59,000 DER on the ComEd smart grid include 1,582 commercial systems, 118 community solar farms, 23 industrial and two utility scale projects helping to place Illinois first among Midwestern states based on DER and second for total capacity, according to the Solar Energy Industry Association.

"Achieving the 1-gigawatt milestone for DER reflects progress with the adoption of distributed energy resources and our commitment to helping residential, commercial and industrial customers take full advantage of the benefits of solar energy," said Scott Vogt, vice president of Strategy and Energy Policy at ComEd. "With available state and federal incentives, this is a great time to go solar and we are here to help customers every step of the way."

"For ComEd to reach 1 gigawatt of distributed energy resources on its system illustrates the positive impact that our equitable energy policies are making in Illinois, and the importance of transparency and open communication between utilities and the developer community, and strong customer education," said Brian Granahan, director of the Illinois Power Agency. "Everyone benefits from solar energy, so it's important to work together in support of achieving our state's renewable energy goals."

Over the past five years, ComEd has supported 114% annual growth in DER for residential customers and 25% annual growth for C&I customers. Community solar has grown more than 4,000% since the first project was placed into service in the ComEd service territory in 2019. A gigawatt is equal to 1,000 megawatts (MW), or 1 billion watts, which is equivalent to about 3.12 million photovoltaic panels, 431 utility scale wind turbines and 100 million LED light bulbs.

Through May of this year, ComEd has received a record volume of 8,273 new interconnection applications and completed 5,073 systems totaling 95.76 MW of capacity, demonstrating the positive impact of climate legislation in Illinois and growing consumer interest in managing energy bills and reducing their carbon footprint with solar energy.

ComEd expects that DER capacity will increase to over 1,900 MW by 2025 and to more than 3,600 MW by 2030, or enough energy to power approximately 120,000 homes for one year. In addition to solar resources, DER technologies also include assets that can help balance and control demand on the grid, such as battery storage and batteries in electric vehicles used to export power back to the grid.

For customers with overly shady roofs or who rent or live in a multi-family dwelling, community solar may be a better option than private residential solar panels. Community solar participants subscribe to a large solar energy project owned by an independent developer and earn credits on their monthly ComEd bills for their portion of the electricity produced by the project. By the end of this year, ComEd expects to have more than 150 community solar projects interconnected to its distribution system serving a total of about 40,000 customers.

Rebate programs are available to commercial and residential renewable energy facilities. The rebate is valued at up to \$300 per kilowatt for an eligible distributed generation facility, such as rooftop solar, and a rebate of up to \$300 per kilowatt-hour for an associated energy storage device.

The multi-year grid and rate plans that ComEd filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) outline the proposed investments required to support this rapid expansion of renewable energy and help ensure equitable access to the benefits of clean energy under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. The plans align with ComEd 2030, the company's vision for a carbon-free energy future that will benefit all communities and meet customers' changing needs for the rest of this decade and beyond.



## Dr. Gopal Gupta Awarded on *Newsweek* America's Best Prostate Cancer Surgeons 2024 List

*Newsweek* and *Statista* are proud to announce that Gopal Gupta, MD, affiliated with Loyola Medicine, has earned a position in the America's Best Prostate Cancer Surgeons 2024 list. This is an exclusive list of only 150 doctors in the country. Congratulations on this achievement!

In an era of informed decision-making, it is increasingly important for patients to make well-founded choices about which doctor to consult for their specific condition. To support this process, *Statista* and *Newsweek* have partnered to provide a comprehensive resource: America's Best Prostate Cancer Surgeons 2024.

The ranking was released on the *Newsweek* website on June 12, and published in the print edition of *Newsweek Magazine*.

America's Best Prostate Cancer Surgeons 2024 were determined based on four data sources:

- Physician Performance Data: Based on Medicare data from CareJourney in 2022, an evaluation of the physician's performed procedures was conducted.
- Recommendations from Peers: During the survey period from March to April 2024, thousands of medical experts (physicians with knowledge in the field of prostate cancer, managers/administrators and other medical professionals in the field of prostate cancer) were invited to an online survey via *Newsweek.com*.
- Quality Assessment: For recommendations in their own state, participants were asked to assess the quality of care (e.g., treatments, follow-up care, use of most recent equipment) for each prostate cancer surgeon.
- Certifications: Board certification by the American Board of Urology was taken into consideration for all eligible prostate cancer surgeons.

Based on the results of the study, Dr. Gupta affiliated with Loyola Medicine is honored to be recognized on *Newsweek's* list of America's Best Prostate Cancer Surgeons 2024.

*Statista* publishes hundreds of worldwide industry rankings and company listings with high-profile media partners. This research and analysis service is based on the success of *statista.com*, the leading data and business intelligence portal that provides statistics, relevant business data, and various market and consumer studies and surveys.

"Dr. Gupta is a world-class clinician," said Shawn P. Vincent, president and CEO of Loyola Medicine. "He has helped establish Loyola as a leader in robotic surgery and cutting-edge urologic cancer surgery treatments. We are fortunate to have his expertise on our team."

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## Walgreens and Instacart Collaborate to Accept SNAP/EBT Online Nationwide

### Walgreens and Instacart Now Accept SNAP/EBT Payments Nationwide at More Than 7,500 Walgreens Stores

On Aug. 6, Walgreens, the leading integrated independent retail pharmacy and health care provider, announced a new collaboration with Instacart, the leading grocery technology company in North America, to offer online SNAP/EBT payment acceptance at more than 7,500 Walgreens stores nationwide, including over 100 Duane Reade locations in New York. Customers can now purchase thousands of SNAP-eligible products for same-day delivery via Instacart.

Through the collaboration between Walgreens and Instacart, the companies are helping to broaden food access in communities where more than 40 million people receive SNAP/EBT benefits.

"Our collaboration with Instacart underscores Walgreens commitment to expanding access to essential food items for our customers," said Balachandra Visalatha, SVP and chief product officer at Walgreens. "By integrating SNAP/EBT payments, we are making it easier for families and individuals to shop for the items they need and offer an efficient, highly relevant customer experience that meets their changing needs and preferences."



Currently, most Walgreens stores accept SNAP/EBT for in-person purchases. The collaboration with Instacart allows customers nationwide to use SNAP/EBT at any Walgreens, eliminating the need for transportation to the store. Walgreens is focused on enhancing the front-of-store experience and creating the right omnichannel solutions for our customers, while driving in-store efficiencies.

"Through Instacart, 96% of U.S. households enrolled in SNAP can use their benefits to shop for the essentials they need online. We're dedicated to offering the best online selection for SNAP families, providing both access and choice through our marketplace," said Sarah Mastrocco, vice president and general manager of health at Instacart. "As we expand with trusted retailers like Walgreens, we're proud to help more families in more communities get their essentials delivered."

To order Walgreens SNAP-eligible items for delivery, customers can visit [www.instacart.com/walgreens](http://www.instacart.com/walgreens) or select the Walgreens storefront in the Instacart mobile app. Customers simply add their SNAP/EBT card as a form of payment on their Instacart profile and shop for SNAP-eligible items from the Walgreens or Duane Reade storefront. At checkout, SNAP users can select how much of their benefit they would like to allocate to eligible items in their order.

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# Nicor Gas is Among Nation's Most Trusted Utilities

Nicor Gas has been named a Most Trusted Utility Brand among residential customers, according to a 2024 study by Escalent, a top data analytics and advisory firm. The recognition is based on a nationwide survey of more than 61,400 residential customers of the 142 largest U.S. utility companies to determine a brand trust index score based on consumer ratings across six factors: customer focus, community support, communications effectiveness, reliability, environmental dedication and company reputation.

"Nicor Gas is honored to be recognized by Escalent as a 2024 Most Trusted Brand. This distinction is not just a reflection of our commitment to excellence but a testament to the deep-seated trust and connection we've cultivated with our communities," said Wendell Dallas, president and CEO of Nicor Gas. "The confidence of our customers is a reminder of the families and businesses who are at the heart of every service we provide. We dedicate this achievement to our loyal customers and our dedicated employees, who together make Nicor Gas not just a provider, but a true partner in every sense."



Nicor Gas joins the list of 33 utility companies that received the 2024 Most Trusted Brand designation for their industry-leading customer trust levels. According to the 2024 Cogent Syndicated Utility Brand & Customer Engagement™: Residential study from Escalent, higher investments in communication and more frequent messaging on preferred channels increase Americans' trust in utility companies even though customers face ongoing inflation-related economic difficulties.

"The real advantage of the 2024 Most Trusted Brands is their expertise in crafting messages that reinforce the value proposition and strengthen customer awareness of satisfaction-driving benefits, such as reliability, ease of service interactions, energy-saving programs and the ways the utility supports a clean environment," said Suzanne Haggerty, director of Syndicated Research with the Energy Team at Escalent.

In the past year, Nicor Gas has provided more than \$48 million in bill payment and energy assistance to qualified customers, and donated \$5.4 million to 344 community nonprofit organizations that enhance the quality of life for the communities and customers we serve. To learn more, visit [nicorgas.com/2023communityimpact](https://nicorgas.com/2023communityimpact).

## Nicor Gas Announces \$100,000 in Funding for Educational, Technical and Vocational Programming

Expanding on its commitment to enhance opportunities and social mobility for the communities it serves, Nicor Gas is announcing \$100,000 in funding to support secondary and post-secondary educational programs, as well as technical and vocational programs.

Community nonprofit organizations may apply for these grants from Nicor Gas to support their educational programming that aligns with the company's workforce development initiatives. Applications are available at [NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving](https://NicorGas.com/CharitableGiving) through Sept. 30. Each community nonprofit organization selected will be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in grant funds this year.

Nicor Gas is committed to supporting initiatives that provide a path to social mobility and enhanced opportunities through education and career readiness programming, including institutions that offer areas of study important to the energy industry.

"At the heart of our education pillar lies a steadfast commitment to nurturing the growth of future generations. Nicor Gas aims to open doors to new opportunities and build a bridge to careers in energy and related fields," said Jackie Nagel, manager of Community Affairs. "Our dedication to fostering partnerships aligns with our workforce development initiatives, ensuring we not only raise awareness of the vast possibilities within the energy sector but also cultivate a diverse and skilled workforce ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow."

Last year, the company awarded \$100,000 in education grants to 21 organizations, including:

- DuPage Childrens Museum – Supports science learning labs that supplement K-5 students' science, art and math education.
- The Bridge Teen Center– Supports the "Thriftastic" job readiness program that offers real-life experience in a retail environment and afterschool programs that introduce students to potential career paths through culinary demonstrations, art, STEM and trades-focused programs.
- Kankakee Area YMCA – Supports a career-readiness program for teens that includes workshops on creating resumes, interview practice, professional dress and mental health awareness.

Nicor Gas focuses its charitable giving on five pillars: environmental stewardship, diversity, education, community enrichment, and basic human needs and energy assistance. To apply for an education and career readiness grant, visit <https://www.nicorgas.com/company/about-us/charitable-giving/pillars-of-giving.html>.

Applications are also being accepted through Aug. 31 to support basic human needs and energy assistance.

To learn more about Nicor Gas' commitment to its communities, visit [NicorGas.com/Community](https://NicorGas.com/Community).



# Obituaries

## *Albanese*

Donald Albanese, proud firefighter of the Maywood Fire Department for 29 years. Beloved husband of Victoria Albanese; loving father of Gabriella and Angelina; beloved son of the late Joseph and Loretta; dear brother of Joseph and Colleen Albanese; loving dad of Da Baby Roxie; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

## *Cochiaro*

Nicholas M. Cochiaro. Beloved husband of Kelly; loving father of Rose, Bella and Nicco; beloved son of James and Catherine Russ; dear brother of Cory (Jessica) Cube; loving nephew, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

## *Coco*

Josephine Coco, nee Vestino, age 100 of Cicero, originally from Taylor Street. Beloved wife of the late John D. Coco; loving mother of Charlene (Bill) Smith, John (Evie) Coco, Edward (Kathy) Coco and Kimberley (Jose) Calderon; cherished nana of 11 and great-nana of 14; dear sister of Rose (late Joseph) Pileggi, the late Michael (late Dolores) Vestino, late Mary (late James) Mattrey, late Lena (late Jimmy) Palermo, late Concetta (late Augie) Fata, late Benny (late Beatrice) Vestino, late Tony (late Jan) Vestino, late Angelo (late Carmella) Vestino and the late Louie (late Mary) Vestino; fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Kuratko-Nosek Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## *Colbert*

David T Colbert Jr. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

## *Del Percio*

Iva Jean Del Percio. Beloved wife of the late Fritz Del Percio; loving mother of Deborah Del Percio, Nick (Christy) Del Percio, Linda (Bob) Kulovitz and Bonnie (Don) Mago; beloved daughter of the late Fred and Neva Baggett; fond grandmother of Elyse (Tom) Klein, Natalie (Chris Lloyd) Del Percio, Marina (Mike) Hanley, Patrick Del Percio and Donnie (Gabriella) Mago; fond great-grandmother of Quinn and Charlotte Klein, and Michael, Mason and Morgan Hanley; dear sister of Larry (Karen) Baggett, the late Donna (Jim) Lynch and the late Doris (Frank) Revello; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Iva Jean was a die hard Cubs fan, loved to crochet, play cards, play on her iPad and spend time with her family. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## *Dinsmore*

Joyce Ann "Mama D" Dinsmore, passed away peacefully on the eve of May 18, 2024, at the age of 75. Born on March 14, 1949, to Donald and Florence (Klosowski) Zito; sister to Tommy, Greg and Roni; aunt to Maria and Mario; loving wife of Nick Kowell; mother of Ben and Jamie; Grandma D to Keith, Ellie, Haley, Soren and Orion; friend and neighbor to many.

As an administrative assistant, she managed to run our household like a well-oiled machine ... her love and strength the glue holding us all together. She enjoyed music, bowling, camping and board games back in the day. And we cannot forget to mention the many weekends as the Emulsifier Pit Crew, parachute folding, truck driving, kick their butts encouraging motivator. She was an avid salt and pepper shaker, doughboy, ladybug and dog-themed items collector. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting and craft making. Leaving us with many handmade treasures to remind us of all the good times and memories to cherish. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

## *Formusa*

Roseann Formusa, devoted and adored wife of the late Anthony C. Formusa Jr.; cherished and beloved mother of Patricia Anne, Natalie, Luanne and Anthony (Renee); passed away on July 31, 2024. Roseann was predeceased by her beloved mother and father, Sam and Concetta, sister Sarah (Robert Philips) and brother Vincent. She is survived by her loving children, brother Salvatore (the late Sandra) Covelli, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and great-great nieces, and nephews, godchildren and cousins. Her final moments were spent peacefully in her home surrounded by family and close friends. Known for her love of family and home, Roseann will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Roseann's family asks that she be remembered for the way she brought joy to others in life and not the sadness of her passing. Proud member of Santa Maria Incononata Club and former president of the Sacred Heart Women's Guild. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Mount Carmel Cemetery.

## *Godinez*

Jonatan J. Godinez. Loving son of Jesus Godinez and Olivia Godinez; cherished brother of Yaritza and Joselina Godinez; loving nephew, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## *Gulino*

James "Jimmy" Gulino, proud retired fireman of the Melrose Park Fire Department. Beloved husband of Donna Gulino; loving father of Nicole Gulino; beloved son of Ann and Ciro "Chick" Gulino; dear brother of Joe (Kelly) Gulino and John (Marian) Gulino; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Proud member of the Maywood Park Gun Club. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

## *Hoger*

Warren G. Hoger, The Coach, received his Crown of Glory on June 30, 2024, at the age of 94. Warren was born on Jan. 7, 1930, in Chicago, Illinois, and baptized into Jesus. Warren attended elementary school at Timothy Lutheran, Chicago, and St. Paul, Austin. He attended Luther Institute before completing his education at Valparaiso University. Warren proudly served in the United States Army before beginning his calling as a teacher and coach. His career spanned 42 years and included three schools, Walther Lutheran High School, Melrose Park; Concordia, River Forest; and Triton College, River Grove. He was inducted into the Illinois High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame, the Illinois High School Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame, and received the Valparaiso University Alumni Achievement Award in 2003. Warren was an active and faithful member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Melrose Park, since 1956.

Warren is preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Anna Hoger; brother Howard and sister Betty. He is survived by his beloved wife Joanne; daughter Deborah (Jim) Montgomery; son Mark (Jean) Hoger; cherished grandchildren Allison (Nathan) Devroy, Timothy (Jillian) Montgomery, Jamie (Phillip) Hanson, Christine Hoger, Aaron (Rita) Hoger and Kaylee (David) VanDeven; loving family Pat and John Jonas; Laura and Tim Tully; Josh, Josiah, Elizabeth, Abigail and Anna Tully; John and Allison Jonas; Lexie, Anniston and Brielle Jonas; Eric and Kerri Jonas; Jackson and Jaylee Jonas; John and Becky Pievitz; and his treasured great-grand loves Ronald Devroy, Franklin Devroy, Cecelia Montgomery, Faye Hoger and Reid Hanson.

Arrangements by Knollcrest Funeral Home. Interment Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

### **Jarvis**

Justin Michael Jarvis. Loving father of Justin Jarvis Jr., Jackson Jarvis and Scarlett Kliber-Jarvis; beloved son of Bridget Jarvis and the late Scott Dewilde; cherished stepson of Adelino Carrasquillo; fond grandson of James and Sherry Jarvis, and Linda Dewilde; dear brother of Alexys, Christopher and Matthew; loving uncle, nephew, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

### **Kuffel**

Donald Kuffel, proud veteran of the United States Marine Corp. Dearly beloved husband of Karen Kuffel; loving father of Donna, Donald (Angela), Larry (Carmella), Kathleen (Larry), Kimberley, Margie and Manny; beloved son of the late Madeline Kuffel; cherished grandfather of Nicolas, Makaylah, Kehlani, Denna, Anthony, Alexis, Madelyn, Danielle, Jessica (Victor), Paige (Bryan), Bryce, Jenna (Conner), Seth, Robbi, Rocco, Ninno, Guiliana and Isabella; great-grandfather of Eli, Aaden, Bella, Isaiah, Kahne, Henry, Liam, Watson, Silas, Owen and Raydon; loving brother of Linda (Joe) Guzzo, Ronald (the late Karen), Terry, Barbara (the late James) Separandio, Frank, the late Theodore (the late Betty) and the late Carmella (the late Sam) Michelli; loving uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

### **Lee**

Bobbie J. Lee. Loving mother of Amy Lee, Sherry Lee and Bruce Lee; beloved daughter of the late Troy Campbell and Hulda Faye Young; cherished grandmother of Kathlynn, Luis "Ernie", Isais, Xavier, Bruce, Logan and Luciano; fond great-grandmother of Nova; dear sister of Scott Campbell, the late Debbie Seibring and the late Ricky; loving aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

### **Marchok**

Bette Marchok. Beloved wife of the late Lorenzo "Russ" Columbo and the late Ronald Marchok; loving mother of Jerry Columbo, Lucia (Frank) Giuffre and Larry Columbo; fond grandmother of Laura (Rich), Luco, Lesleigh (Russell) and Ashlie (Matthew); fond great-grandmother of Richie, Colby, Max, Hudson and Adelina; loving sister, aunt, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

### **Mullins**

James L. Mullins, retired sergeant, C.P.D. Loving son of the late William and Ruth Mullins; stepdad to Anna Foltyn and Matthew Cifuentes; loving brother to Kenneth (Jan) Mullins, Carol (John) Waldmueller, Bonnie (John) Wilson, Timothy (Wendy) Mullins, Mary Lou (Robert) D'Amato, Judith (Victor) Bizzotto, the late Gerald (Marlene) Mullins, the late Nancy Jornd, the late Lawrence Mullins, the late Michael Mullins, the late Kevin (Sasha) Mullins and the late Terrence (Carol) Mullins. Jim was esteemed by so many for his impact, influence, and support that he gave. His kind, generous and unselfish manner made him an angel of God on Earth. To so many he was a mentor, a role model and above all a genuine and true friend. He would always say that if you find a true friend you have found a true treasure in life. Jim was a true treasure. He will be dearly missed and his absence will be felt by everyone. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home.

### **Pieranunzi**

Frank Pieranunzi, retired police lieutenant, passed away peacefully, Wednesday, July 17, 2024, surrounded by his loving family, at the age of 79.

Beloved husband of the late Sandra "Sandy" (nee Olsen) for a loving 40 years; devoted father of Adina, Nicole, Frankie (Lizet) and Elaina (Jim); loving son of the late Giustino "Gus" and the late Mary (nee Vallesi); fond grandfather of Arianna (Gil), Gina, Aly, Giustina, Jose, Tristan, Santino, Ronnie (Stephanie), JP, Lily, Vinny and Nico; dear great-grandfather of Ava, Giselle, Alex, Jr, Joziah, Amina and RJ; dear brother of John (Mary Ellen) and Anthony (Mary), and brother-in-law of John Duba; dear uncle and great-uncle of many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Russo's Hillside Chapels. Interment at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery.

### **Saylor**

Ray Saylor, March 4, 1942-July 29, 2024. Ray Saylor was an affectionate, loving and hardworking individual who had a heart of gold. Born in Harlan County, Kentucky, Ray lived an adventurous life. At 13 years old, he won second place and a gold watch singing *Ballad of Davy Crockett* in the Morris B. Sachs Amateur Hour competition. Ray had a deep love for music and would carry that love, singing tunes at karaoke, block parties and in car rides. Throughout his life, Ray loved to travel. From hunting in the mountains in Montana to fishing in the lakes in Canada and golfing every chance he had. Ray had a love for the great outdoors.

He moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he fell in love with the field of plumbing, serving the Chicagoland area for over 50 years. For 30 of those years, Ray ran his family-owned business, Drain Man Plumbing & Sewer, in Bartlett, Illinois. He impacted his family, teaching his sons to become licensed plumbers. His friendly demeanor and care for others made him form connections in the community and many lasting friendships along the way.

Ray was surrounded by a loving, blended family. He deeply loved each and every one of them, and took great joy in the time he spent with them. Ray will be lovingly remembered by his wife Mary Jo Saylor; his children, Ray Jr. (Lynn) Saylor, Mike (Tricia) Saylor, Jason Saylor, Daniel Golter, Jenna (Jose) Miranda, Tim (Courtney) Golter and Kristy Rae Saylor; his grandchildren, whom he loved so much, Tawney (Mike) Cremer, Chris Saylor, Mikey (Amanda) Saylor, Charlie and Gabriel Kook, Chase, Braelynn and Olivia Golter; his great-grandchildren Bennett (aka Benji to Ray) and Cameron Saylor, and Caden Cremer; his brother Eddy Ray and sister Pat (Harold) Rogers; his mother-in-law June Angsten; as well as his brother- and sister-in-laws, Sharon (James) Stephens, Steve (Brenda) Holt, Tim Angsten, Tom Angsten, Jim (Elsa) Angsten and Nancy (Eddy) Resendiz. He was preceded in death by his wife Sandra Faye Saylor, his daughter Sharon Saylor, his mother Blanche Saylor, and his brothers Kenneth Hayes and James Stephens.

Arrangements by Countryside Funeral Home and Crematory.

### **Thomas**

Daniel Thomas. Dearly beloved husband of 70 years to Marian Thomas (nee Russo); loving father of Victoria Thomas, Denise Giuffre and Danny Thomas; cherished grandfather of Giana and Natalie (Robert) Anzaldi; great-grandfather of Giancarlo and Alessia Anzaldi; dear brother of Terry Thomas and Tammy (Gary) Thomas; loving brother, uncle, cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment private.

### **Vatinno**

Leonardo Vatinno. Beloved son of Francesco and Rosa Vatinno; dear brother of Joseph (Jeanne) Vatinno; cherished uncle of Amanda and Sarah Vatinno; loving cousin and friend of many. Arrangements by Carbonara Funeral Home. Interment All Saints Cemetery.



# The ROSE

Village of Melrose Park  
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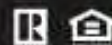


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