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# Village View

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## B-MAC EDITION

Volume 16 | Number 13 | July 5, 2022

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

### South Suburban College Selected by Amazon as an Education Partner for Career Choice Program

South Suburban College (SSC) has been selected as an education partner for Amazon's Career Choice program, providing Amazon's hourly employees access to various educational opportunities on the Main Campus in South Holland, at the Oak Forest Center and via a virtual learning environment.

SSC plays a pivotal role in transforming the lives of its diverse student population. Knowledgeable faculty and service-focused staff guide students on their path to success, to start and/or keep careers moving forward with various degree and certificate options. High quality education, training and services are provided in modern facilities on both campuses. Updated technology is used as students engage in class, whether in-person or online.

Amazon's Career Choice program is an education benefit that empowers employees to learn new skills for career success at Amazon or elsewhere. The program meets individual learners where they are on their education journey through a variety of education and upskilling opportunities including full college tuition, industry certifications designed to lead to in-demand jobs,

and foundational skills such as English language proficiency, high school diplomas, and GEDs. In the U.S., the company is investing \$1.2 billion to upskill more than 300,000 employees by 2025 to help move them into higher-paying, in-demand jobs.



Amazon's Career Choice program has a rigorous selection process for third-party partner educators, choosing partners that are focused on helping employees through their education programs, assisting them with job placements, and overall offering education that leads to career success.

"We're looking forward to South Suburban College coming on board as an education partner for Career Choice, adding to the hundreds of best-in-class offerings available to our employees," said Tammy Thieman, Global Program Lead of Amazon's Career Choice program. "We're committed to empowering our employees by providing them access to

the education and training they need to grow their careers, whether that's with us or elsewhere. We have intentionally cultivated a partner network of third-party educators and employers committed to providing excellent education, job placement

resources, and continuous improvements to the experience. Today, over 50,000 Amazon employees around the world have already participated in Career Choice and we've seen first-hand how it can transform their lives."

For more information on Amazon's Career Choice, visit: <https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/workplace/career-choice>. For details about SSC's partnership with Amazon's Career Choice, visit: <https://www.ssc.edu/amazon-career-choice-at-ssc/>. The mission of South Suburban College is to Serve our Students and the Community through lifelong learning.

Pictured: The South Suburban College Main Campus Student Entrance.

### After-Hours Mini Golf at the Library

After closing on Friday, July 15, Midlothian Public Library, located at 14701 Kenton Avenue, will transform into an indoor miniature golf course for the public. The first nine holes will be lighted with colored LED lights, created by Bounce

Houses R Us, and the final nine holes will be created by library staff and volunteers using common objects from around the library. The event is free, but registration is required; registrants must select either a 6:00 pm or 7:30 pm tee time. Complimentary

pizza will be served. Children under 8 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver age 14 or older.

To register or for more information, call the library at (708) 535-2027 or visit [midlothianlibrary.org](http://midlothianlibrary.org) and click the "Events" tab.



The Illinois Family Relief Plan will go into effect, making good on the promise by Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly to provide relief on the grocery tax, gas tax, and property taxes. The plan totals an estimated \$1.83 billion in relief, including income and property tax rebates and a temporary cut in several sales taxes.

"Every Illinoisan will get tax relief on essentials: groceries, gas, your home, and back-to-school supplies, with even more tax relief going into effect next year," said Governor JB Pritzker. "We are sending \$1.8 billion in tax relief to Illinois families and we are doing that because Democrats balanced the budget, eliminated the bill backlog, and state government is now running a surplus. In challenging times like these, it's more important than ever to have a government whose first focus is on working families and those who

### Illinois Family Relief Plan started

are struggling, and leadership that provides new and creative ways to deliver relief when you need it most."

"Amid historic rates of inflation, the people of our state deserve to know that they are not on their own. We are with them," said Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton. "This \$1.8 billion in tax relief ensures that Illinoisans in every community, rural and urban, are seen and supported. When our residents are feeling the weight of buying food, gas, and making ends meet, Illinois acts to ease the burden."

The Family Relief Plan includes several tax holidays, meaning a temporary cut in taxes, including:

**Groceries:** The state's 1% sales tax on groceries will be suspended July through June 30, 2023, saving consumers \$400 million.

**Gas:** The state's normally scheduled increase in the motor fuel tax will be delayed from July to January 2023, saving consumers \$70 million.

**School supplies:** Sales taxes for qualified clothing and school-related items will be reduced from 6.25% to 1.25% for a 10-day window from August 5 to 14, saving consumers \$50 million.

Items include qualifying clothing and footwear with a retail selling price of less than \$125 per item. Eligible school supplies are not subject to the \$125 threshold.

In addition, the plan permanently expands the state's earned income credit from 18% to 20% of the federal credit, while expanding the number of households covered, putting an additional \$100 million per year back into the pockets of working families who need it the most.

The State of Illinois is also providing property tax rebates for eligible homeowners in an amount equal to the property tax credit they qualified for on their 2021 Illinois tax returns, up to a maximum of \$300. The rebate is not allowed if a taxpayer's adjusted gross income for the taxable year exceeds \$500,000 for returns with a federal filing status of married filing jointly, or \$250,000 for all other returns.

For additional information, taxpayers may visit IDOR's website at [tax.illinois.gov](http://tax.illinois.gov). Taxpayer representatives can also provide assistance at 1-800-732-8866 or 217-782-3336.

### Summertime in Worth Township

Dear Worth Township Residents,

Summer is here, Patricia Joan Murphy; Supervisor wants to encourage everyone to do wellness checks on their neighbors particularly the elderly as temperatures reach dangerous levels. Heat exhaustion is a serious

matter and can lead to more severe health issues. There are several cooling locations within Worth Township that are listed on our website for those who may need it.

Summertime also means Summer Camp is back for our youth ages 5-12. Our camp has plenty of activities

indoors and out, rain or shine. Activities include planned field trips, swimming, arts & crafts, and recreational sports all in a supervised setting with adult counselors. Camp ends in August with a fun-filled "Camp Blowout" day where township staff and kids participate in group activities.



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## FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 20 | Number 13 | July 5, 2022

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

### Market at the Park

Market at the Park returns to Crescent Park this summer. Featuring a variety of food (ready to eat, specialty and snacks), artisanal and handmade arts, crafts, vintage products and home decor as well as free weekly entertainment.

Kids be sure to check out our expanded Market Roamers children's program activities. Stay tuned to social media and our website for updates.

There truly is something for everyone at Market at the Park!

Thursdays, July 7 thru



Aug 18 from 4pm to 8pm (No market August 4). For more information call 708-403-6100. Or stop by and visit our Market in the Park at Crescent Park, 9705 142nd Street, Orland Park, Illinois.

Weekly Entertainment  
July 7 Beach Bums  
Band: The Walk-Ins (beach music/variety).

Market Roamers Activity & Hobby Time with Hobby Town and Beach games & sandcastles.

Food Truck: Angelo Caputo's Fresh Market.

Orland Park Public Library, Story Time.

July 14: Around the World in OP.

Band: The Music Company (polka/variety).

Market Roamers Activity & Hobby Time with Hobby Town - Anime Models.

Food Truck: Nicky V's and Angelo Caputo's Fresh Market.

Orland Park Public Library - Story Time.

### The City of Oak Forest has hired John Robinson as assistant director of public works.

Robinson's first day on the job will be July 5.

"I believe John will be a progressive change agent," said City Administrator Tim Kristin. "John's extensive management experience, contemporary ideas, and knowledge of best practices will greatly enhance the way the department operates."

Most recently, Robinson served as the superintendent of parks and facilities for the Village of Homer Glen. In this role, he was responsible for 200 acres of parks and seven miles of trails; super-

vised the maintenance of village buildings and equipment; and managed the village's vehicles and maintenance program. In addition, Robinson served as the village's emergency management coordinator - developing the emergency operations plan, operating outdoor warning sirens, and keeping the Emergency Operations Center in a state of readiness.

Robinson is a member of the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association, the National Parks and



Recreation Association, the International Code Council, and Arbor Day Foundation.

### Boy Band Night coming to Zabrocki Plaza



Say "bye, bye, bye" to your living room couch and come out to see the Boy

Band Night perform during the next Music in the Plaza concert from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 9 at Zabrocki Plaza, 17375 Oak Park Ave.

The Boy Band Night is an all-live, full band tribute to boy bands such as NSYNC, Backstreet Boys, New Kids on the Block, the Jonas Brothers, One Direction and more. The seven-piece band features three lead vocalists, as well as guitars, keyboards, bass and drums.

Durbin's will be selling pizza, nachos, hot dogs, brisket tacos, beer and wine, and Popus Gourmet Popcorn will be offering snacks.

Don't miss the next concerts in the Music in the Plaza series, including Libido Funk Circus on July 23, ARRA on July 30, Rod Tuffcurls and the Bench Press on Aug. 13, Student Body on Aug. 27 and American Pie on Sept. 10.

### Water Rate Adjustment Coming on August Bills

The Mokena Village Board approved an ordinance last month amending the Village's water rate for the 2023 fiscal year.

The rate is made up of a City of Chicago rate for treating and delivering water to Oak Lawn, an Oak Lawn rate for delivering water to Mokena and four other "downstream" communities, a Tinley Park rate for delivering water to

Mokena and New Lenox, and a local community rate for delivering water directly to Mokena residents and businesses.

A \$0.25/1,000 gallons adjustment in the 2023 fiscal year was agreed to by the Board. As a result, the Village's water rate increased from \$7.89/1,000 gallons to \$8.14/1,000 gallons effective July 1 (billable in August).

None of the fee adjust-

ment is attributable to the local Mokena community rate portion of a monthly bill, which remains the same.

For budgeting purposes, the \$0.25/1,000 gallons adjustment will increase monthly water bills by approximately \$2.00 for the average Mokena household using 8,000 gallons a month.

Sewer utility rates remain unchanged.

### ComEd announces Rate Increases



ComEd recently announced a price increase which went into effect June 1, 2022. ComEd customers can expect to see the price increase on their July billing statements.

"Due to the correlation of electric rates and a heightened demand for natural gas being at an all-time high, I want to make sure our residents who are on a fixed income are aware of

ComEd's payment assistance options available on their website," said Mayor Michael Glotz. "Please contact the Chairman of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee, Senator Michael E. Hastings, from the 19th Senate District, to let him know we need action to combat rising rates. The Chairman covers most of the Tinley Park residents in his Legislative District. His Frankfort office number is 815-464-5431 and is located at 20855 S. LaGrange Road #102, Frankfort, IL 60423."

ComEd electric rates

for June 2022 to May 2023 period compared to June 2021 to May 2022 period for residential is now 9.76¢ from 7.81¢ and ComEd commercial is now 9.89¢ from 7.85¢.

To combat the increased rates and alleviate some of the costs, customers are encouraged to reduce energy consumption.

Those seeking financial assistance can access resources at Payment Assistance. For more information, please visit comed.com or call 1-800-EDISON-1.

### First Responders Honored for Lifesaving Efforts

A number of area first responders were honored with Lifesaving Awards at your Mokena Village Board's June 27 meeting in connection with a February 11, 2022 incident in Mokena.

The first responders included Mokena Patrol Officer Caitlin Wynn (pictured with Interim Police Chief Brian Benton),

Laraway Communications Center Telecommunicator Cindy Wilson, and Lt. Gotter, Engineer Wiencsek, Firefighter Porter Lt. Swanson, Engineer Bukowski, Firefighter Ruhbeck, Lt. Cresto, Engineer Berger, Firefighter Meyer, and Assistant Chief Rick Campbell of the Mokena Fire Protection District.

Among other things, the actions of the above included providing directions for CPR, dispatching emergency personnel, administering CPR, stabilizing the cardio respiratory status of the patient, and providing transport to a nearby hospital.

The patient ultimately was able to make a full recovery from the incident.



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## SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 23 | Number 13 | July 5, 2022

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

### Moraine Valley president appointed to Illinois Community College Board

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker has appointed Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, president of Moraine Valley Community College, to the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). The ICCB, headquartered in Springfield, is responsible for fiduciary oversight and governing policies of the Illinois community college system.

Jenkins looks forward to serving in this capacity and supporting higher education in Illinois.

"I am honored to have been selected for this role and be given an opportunity to help more people, especially the students we serve," she said. "Being a part of Moraine Valley for the last 35 years has prepared me for this role, and I will do my best to serve the citi-

zens of Illinois as we seek to provide an accessible and affordable community college system."

ICCB meets about five times each year throughout the state and works collaboratively with partners such as the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College Trustees Association and the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents.

Jenkins was recommended for the board by Dr. Brian Durham, executive director of the ICCB, about two months ago. After the recommendation, she interviewed with Deputy Gov. Martin Torres.

Dr. Lazaro Lopez, ICCB chair, said he is pleased to welcome Jenkins to the



Dr. Sylvia Jenkins

board.

"Her exemplary leadership during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic helped ensure our community college system remained a safe, supportive and accessible option for countless students across our state," he added. "Dr. Jenkins' experience as a college president will bring a unique and valuable perspective to the ICCB, and we are excited to add her distinguished guidance to our board."

Jenkins' appointment is effective until 2026.

### The Joffrey Ballet collaborates with Miami City Ballet and women-led creative team to present *Rita Finds Home*

The Joffrey Ballet is proud to present the world premiere of *Rita Finds Home*, a family-friendly program and collaborative project between the Joffrey and Miami City Ballet, which will make its debut at the Navy Pier Lake Stage, July 9 & 10, 2022. *Rita Finds Home* is conceived by a nationally recognized, women-led creative team including Amy Hall Garner, a featured choreographer of the Joffrey's Winning Works Choreographic Competition in 2011; Karla Estela Rivera, the Chicago-based author and Executive Director of Free Street Theater (West Town); as well as award-winning children's book author Elisa Chavarri, and will be danced by the Joffrey Studio Company and Academy Trainees of the Joffrey Academy of Dance, Official School of The Joffrey Ballet. *Rita Finds Home* is free-to-the-public and travels from Navy Pier on July 9-10 to parks throughout Chicago from July 14-17 as part of

the Chicago Park District Night Out in the Parks series, bringing vibrant dance and artistry to neighborhoods across the city. For a full list of venues and schedule, visit [Joffrey.org](http://Joffrey.org). Advance registration not required for these free-to-the-public performances, will take place outside, weather permitting.

*Rita Finds Home*, a roughly 45-minute production, centers on Rita, a young artist who paints and dreams of one day living in the big city despite the lush tropical island in which she now lives. When a hurricane thrusts Rita and her mother into a new life in an urban metropolis, she struggles to adapt to her new environment. Feeling lost and like everything she knew, including her talents, were washed away by the storm, Rita embarks on a journey that helps her re-define what home means to her. With help from her new friends and her family, Rita's spirits lift as she explores the beauty



Elisa Chavarri, photo by Matthew Konicek.

of her new city, igniting a new sense of home, and the realization that her talents never left her.

Chicago Schedule:

Saturday, July 9 & Sunday, July 10 at 11:00am and 6:00pm.

Navy Pier Lake Stage at Polk Bros Park, 600 E Grand Ave (Gold Coast).

Thursday, July 14 at 6:30pm.

Harrison Park, 1824 S Wood St (Pilsen).

Friday, July 15 at 6:30pm. Hale Park, 6258 W 62nd St (Clearing).

Saturday, July 16 at 3:00pm.

Eugene Field Park, 5100 N Ridgeway Ave (Albany Park).

Sunday, July 17 at 4:00pm.

Music by the Lake, 350 Constance Blvd, Williams Bay, Wisconsin (Lake Geneva).

### A Message from the Highway Commissioner Victoria Moody

The Highway Department provides an important service for those in Worth Township's unincorporated areas. During the spring and summer, we sponsor our Branch Pick-Up Program which begins in early May and runs through the end of September.

This program is for the removal of light pruning and trimming of trees, not tree removal. We will not pick up contractor-generated brush.

Requirements: No piles larger than 4 ft. high by 8 ft. wide. Anything larger will be left behind.

Branches are to be placed in the parkway and not on streets or in ditches with cut ends facing the street.

Keep branches as long as possible. Diameter up to 6 inches will be accepted.

Brush must be free of stumps, root balls, dirt, stones, metal, old wood, construction materials, and other trash.

Leaves, twigs, clippings, grass cuttings, or vines should be put in yard bags to be picked up by your waste recycling company.

Once we have been down your street, we will not be back until the next scheduled pick-up.

Branches must be out by 7:30 am on your scheduled pick-up day. This will allow for more efficiency in these pick-ups. We will adhere to the schedule, weather



Victoria Moody  
Highway Commissioner  
Worth Township

permitting.

Garden Homes - August 1st, September 12th.

Austin View/Blue Crest - August 4th, September 15th.

Navajo/Palos Gardens - August 8th, September 19th.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at: [Highway@WorthTownship.com](mailto:Highway@WorthTownship.com).

### MAP funding approved for students

As part of the Pritzker administration's hallmark commitment to make college more affordable for students in Illinois, Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly added \$122 million in funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 23, bringing the total funding for this state grant for low-income college students to a historic high of approximately \$601

million.

Each year the Commissioners on the Board of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) approve a framework for distributing MAP grants to eligible students (the MAP eligibility formula), taking into account the amount of funding available and college tuition and fee costs, balancing meaningful grant size with the goal of serving more students. In

FY22, the program was able to offer grants to essentially every eligible student who applied through the end of the academic year, effectively leaving no one on a waiting list for the first time in 20 years. It is estimated the additional funding for FY23 will allow ISAC to provide grants to virtually every eligible student, while significantly increasing grant size.

For more information go to [www.isac.org](http://www.isac.org).



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## SUBURBAN EDITION

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Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn



### Hurley-Supported Plan to Help Returning Service Members Access SkillBridge Signed into Law

in Illinois.”

SkillBridge is a Department of Defense program that allows service members to gain real-world civilian work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships or internships. Service members continue to receive their military salary and benefits while they participate in the program, which can last up to the final 180 days of their service.

Under the Hurley-backed House Bill 5385, the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs will be tasked with serving as the state’s principal assistance liaison to the program. The state department will educate businesses, business associations and transitioning service members regarding the program and its benefits. Additionally, it will help businesses in obtaining approval for skilled workforce training curriculum under the program – including internships,

fellowships and apprenticeships. Furthermore, it will match eligible transitioning service members with training opportunities offered by participating businesses and organizations with the intent of helping service members achieve gainful employment after their SkillBridge training, as well as establish and maintain certifications for the program or any similar workforce training transition programs created by the Department of Defense.

“I encourage local businesses to consider becoming a participant in the program,” Hurley said. “Our returning service members are incredibly dedicated individuals with tremendous character and skillsets.”

House Bill 5385 received bipartisan support and was recently signed into law by the governor. More information about SkillBridge can be found online at [skillbridge.osd.mil](http://skillbridge.osd.mil).

A measure backed by state Rep. Fran Hurley, D-Chicago, will help connect outgoing service members in Illinois with the U.S. Department of Defense’s SkillBridge program which aids military service members in accessing private sector training and career opportunities as they return to civilian life.

“SkillBridge is helping outgoing service members jump start their career as they return home, and we want to make sure that we’re empowering the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs to actively promote this program,” Hurley said. “Our service members deserve access to well-paying careers, let’s make sure they’re able to take advantage of this program



(From Left to Right): Cook County Commissioner Stanley Moore, Jim Sexton, Worth Township Supervisor Patricia Joan Murphy, Worth Township Clerk Eamon McMahon, Worth Township Trustee Kelly Sexton-Kelly

### Foundation Musical Extravaganza, a Big Success

An enjoyable time was had by all at the Worth Township First Annual Double Treble Dueling Piano’s Musical Extravaganza featuring the entertainment of Double Treble. The musical duo played for three hours entertaining guests with their comedy and energetic sound. The event was held at Reilly’s Daughter and raised money for the Worth Township Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

“Everyone had a fun time and we raised money for some worthy programs at the township,” explained Former Evergreen Park Mayor and Development Director for the Foundation Jim Sexton. “We will likely turn this into an annual event based on the feedback of those who attended.”

The Worth Township Foundation helps fund programs in the Worth Township community such as the Christmas Care program, Apple Tree

(back to school) program, community development projects, resources for the township’s food pantry, senior programming and much more.

For further information about the foundation, visit our website at [www.WTfdn.org](http://www.WTfdn.org) or to donate, click the word “donate” on the home screen. For any other questions, please contact Maureen Ryan at 708-972-7840 or email [FoundationWT@worth-township.com](mailto:FoundationWT@worth-township.com).

### Robbery at Reichman Jewelers on July 1st



disarmed the security guard. The offenders then began breaking glass display cases and taking jewelry.

A store employee emerged from the rear of the store and confronted the offenders who shot the employee twice.

One offender was wearing a dark hoodie, another a white t-shirt. No clothing description on the third offender. The offenders then exited the store and drove off west-

On Friday July 1st at approximately 2:00 pm the Oak Lawn Police Department responded to an armed robbery at Reichman Jewelers located at 4439 W. 95th Street.

Three masked male black offenders entered the store, drew their firearms, and

bound through the alley in a silver 4-door sedan. The store employee was transported to a local hospital and is in critical but stable condition.

This is an active investigation - anyone with information please contact the Oak Lawn Police Department at (708) 907-4051 or text tips to (708) 613-8477.

Questions/Information: Oak Lawn Police Chief Dan Vittorio, [dvittorio@oaklawn-il.gov](mailto:dvittorio@oaklawn-il.gov).

### Burke Measure to Streamline Cook County Forest Preserve Property Taxes Signed into Law

State Rep. Kelly Burke, D-Evergreen Park, passed a measure to ease property tax restrictions on the Cook County Forest Preserve district (CCFP), which Gov. Pritzker recently signed into law.

“Streamlining and reforming our property tax system is a key part of promoting good government,” Burke said. “The previous deadline for the CCFP levying property taxes, recently was overly-restrictive and not in-line

with other Illinois government entities. By removing that provision, the district will have the flexibility to collect property taxes in an orderly manner.”

House Bill 4785 removes the requirement that the Cook County Forest Preserve district must levy property taxes by March 28th, and instead requires that these taxes be levied annually. This was an initiative of the Cook County President’s Office and has the backing of the Forest

Preserve District of Cook County and the Chicago Zoological Society. HB 4785 passed the House and Senate with robust bipartisan support.

“Our community wants good, transparent and efficient government, something at the heart of this law,” Burke said. “Eliminating arbitrary bureaucracy will save taxpayer dollars that can be spent better elsewhere. I thank my colleagues and Governor Pritzker for helping my bill become law.”

## Letter to Editor

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

We did not get the result we were looking for last night.

While I am sad that I will not have an opportunity to represent this fantastic community in Congress for another term, I am deeply proud of what we have accomplished and I am eternally grateful to every single

person who helped us make progress.

In 2020, you helped me unseat one of the last anti-choice Democrats in Congress. That was a massive win for women all across this country, and a victory for every constituent in Illinois' 3rd District who was living without health care, struggling to pay bills, and feeling ignored by

their former congressional representative.

We passed two bills into law to improve our transit infrastructure and to make our transportation systems more efficient.

We introduced legislation to make it easier for women and people of color to open small businesses, to strengthen organized labor, to protect everyone's

rights all of which passed the House.

We convened local partners to make our mail delivery more timely, to reduce congestion due to train delays, and to address community safety.

It's been the honor of a lifetime to serve this district, and I look forward to my remaining time in office, and to helping my neighbors in

every way I can.

I am hopeful that with your help, we can continue fighting for our shared progressive values like universal health care, bold climate action, and a government that works for us people, not one that caters to corporate special interests.

First, we need to do all we can to prevent the GOP from making gains this November. They are dead set on rolling back any progress we have made. Let's stick



together and make sure they do not gain the majority in Congress.

Thank you for all that you do. In gratitude, Marie Newman

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**Vacation Bible School 2022**

**Gospeltopia**

July 17<sup>th</sup>-July 21<sup>st</sup> • 6:00pm-8:30pm  
Ages 4 years old to 5th grade

Visit [www.paloschurch.org](http://www.paloschurch.org) to register or call 708-448-0186. Register by July 10!

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[americanlegion854@yahoo.com](mailto:americanlegion854@yahoo.com)

## Letter to Editor

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced her new endorsements for Re-election campaign. Since her historic election in 2019, Mayor Lightfoot has undertaken an ambitious agenda of expanding opportunity and inclusive economic growth across Chicago's neighborhoods and communities. She has led the city through the unprecedented challenges of a global pandemic

with tough, fair leadership, all while keeping her campaign promises, including raising the minimum wage, advancing police reform and overseeing historic investments in affordable housing, youth programs, mental health and environmental justice.

Lightfoot for Chicago, 100 W. Kinzie, Suite 325, Chicago IL 60654 United States

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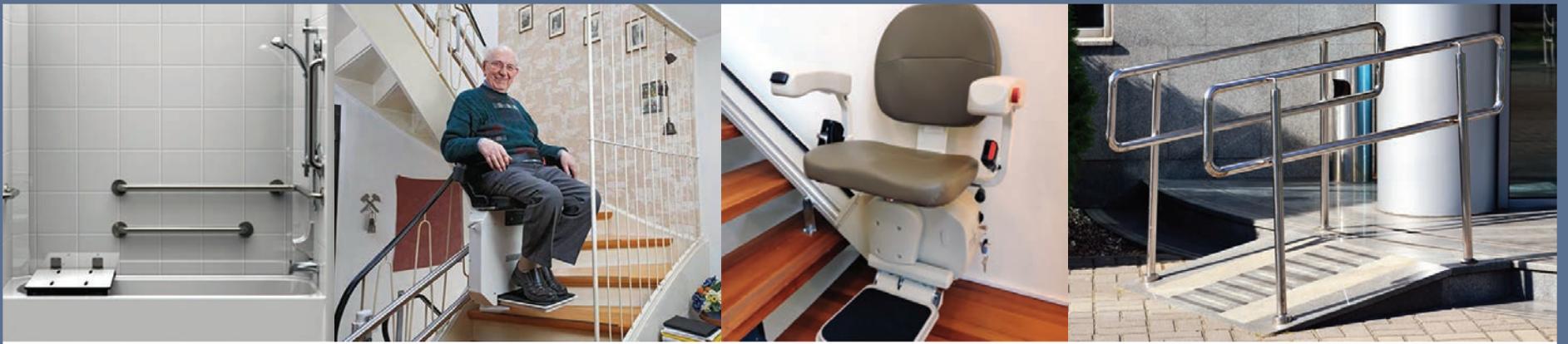
Canteen Hours Noon to Close Daily  
**Public Welcome for 2022**  
**"The Post With The Most Party"**  
Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2-6pm  
We will have Food, Beverages and Music ~ You're all invited!

**Cruise Night is Still Going!**  
Every Tuesday All Summer from 5pm till dusk  
Great Food Menu, Weekly Specials, Tee-Shirts & Beverages

**Queen Of Hearts Weekly Drawing Every Wednesday at 7pm**  
Pot is now approaching over \$17,000

**Rent Our Award-Winning Banquet Hall**  
which is back open and available for you  
No matter the occasion the "V" is a great place to have your event

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We here at Hayat Home Medical Equipment have been servicing Chicagoland and suburbs since 2004 and specialize in home medical equipment such as Oxygen, CPAP, Hospital Beds, Walkers, Canes, Diabetic CGM, and much much more.

We also now do home accessibility remodeling and installation to keep you living independently in your own home.

*Please give us a call for details on any of our services.*

## **Mention this AD to get any of the following Promotions:**

- \$500 discount on any home Access Project Valued at \$5,000 or more
  - 50% off Excite OSA. Original Price \$1,650, now \$825
  - Lift Chair: Buy 1 get 1 50% off • Grab Bars: Buy 3 get 1 Free
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[www.AnimalKrackers.com](http://www.AnimalKrackers.com)

## Petra Flores, resident at Grace Point Place, fills a box with nonperishable food.

Residents at Grace Point Place, an Anthem Memory Care community, recently did their part to help combat food insecurity. The seniors filled boxes with nonperishable goods to give to First United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn for their mini pantry program.

The Blessing Boxes are stand-alone pantries in the community providing food for those who may need it during difficult times.

"Our seniors felt a great sense of purpose while filling these boxes for those in need," said Shannon Dahlman, community rela-

tions director for Grace Point Place. "Having dementia doesn't mean that they can't help others and give back to the community."

Grace Point Place is located at 5701 W. 101st St., Oak Lawn. For more information call Shannon at 708-304-8443.



# \$20

MATCH PLAY

## Lacey's Place

Slots & Video Poker  
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SLOT MACHINE

MATCH PLAY - COME IN WITH THIS COUPON TO ANY OF THE LACEY'S LOCATIONS LISTED BELOW. GIVE THE COUPON TO THE GAMING ATTENDANT. PLAY \$20 IN ANY MACHINE AND WE WILL MATCH YOUR \$20 PLAY WITH CASH ON US! \*EXPIRES JULY 19TH 2022 WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL THIS PROMOTION AT ANY TIME!

LOCATION: HICKORY HILLS, JUSTICE, SUMMIT, BRIDGEVIEW, CRETE, LYNNWOOD, DOLTON, MARKHAM, MIDLOTHIAN

\$20

MATCH PLAY

## Sweet Reminder

for a delicious lunch and a delightfully entertaining show, at

1376 Joliet Rd.  
Romeoville

### White Fence Farm

## Sweet Reminders of Christmas

December 8<sup>th</sup> & December 9<sup>th</sup>

The magic of the season comes alive with familiar cheerful sounds celebrating "the most wonderful time of the year!"  
*Santa Baby, Suzy Snowflake, Silver Bells, Winter Wonderland*

Reservation price of \$45 (or \$41 for parties of 15 or more) INCLUDES ENTIRE EVENT: Four pieces of the famous White Fence Farm chicken with all the fixin's including homemade corn fritters, baked potato, cottage cheese, kidney bean salad, cole slaw, pickled beets, coffee, tea or soft drink beverage, tax, gratuity and the fun show! All shows are lunch shows, with lunch served at 11:30 and show to follow.

Must Call To Reserve Seating: 630-375-9717

[www.sweetreminder.net](http://www.sweetreminder.net)

## ALSIP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# SHOP ALSIP 2022

Shop the following participating business locations during the month of July to enter the Shop Alsip 2022 raffle drawing sponsored by the Alsip Chamber of Commerce.

In order to participate, you must spend \$20.00 at any of the locations listed below in one visit, and submit your receipts to the Alsip Chamber of Commerce. Enter as many times as you like with your separate purchases/receipts. All receipts are to be submitted to the chamber office by Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The winners will be selected on Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

- Alsip Park District** 12521 S. Kostner Ave.
- Allgauer's Restaurant** (at the DoubleTree) 5000 W. 127<sup>th</sup> St.
- 7-Eleven** 4000 W. 127<sup>th</sup> Street
- Baymont Inn** 12801 S. Cicero Ave.
- Eggman's Restaurant** 12701 S. Pulaski Road
- El Coyote Restaurant** 11525 S. Pulaski Road
- Food 4 Less** 12150 S. Pulaski Road
- Fountain Hills Golf Club** 12601 S. Kedzie Ave.
- Gas N Wash** 4361 W. 127<sup>th</sup> Street
- Home Depot** 12000 S. Cicero Ave.
- Las Fuentes Rest.** 11501 S. Pulaski Road
- Nancy's Pizzeria** 11513 S. Pulaski Road
- Nick's BBQ** 5500 W. Cal Sag Road
- O'Hara & Friends Salon** 7008 W. 127<sup>th</sup> Street
- Pappas Restaurant** 12219 S. Pulaski Road
- Porkmafia** 4817 W. 129<sup>th</sup> Street
- Sonic Drive In** 11915 S. Pulaski Road
- Taco Burrito King** 12201 S. Pulaski Road
- Wingz It Iz** 5043 W. 111<sup>th</sup> Street

First Prize is \$300<sup>00</sup> in Gift Cards to Alsip businesses  
 Second Prize is \$250<sup>00</sup> in Gift Cards to Alsip businesses  
 Third Prize is \$200<sup>00</sup> in Gift Cards to Alsip businesses

Send your receipts, or copies of to:

Alsip Chamber of Commerce  
 12159 S. Pulaski Road, Alsip, IL 60803

A mailbox is located on the south side of the building if you choose to drop off your entry. Be sure to include your name, and contact information with your submitted receipts

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## Irish Summer Camp at Gaelic Park

by Tina Butler-Leonard  
Irish Cultural Camp at Gaelic Park is a major event for children between the ages of 5-12. It is a wonderful occasion for the Irish community overall. Kids are immersed in activities that include art, ceili dance, crafts, drama, Irish language, stitching, Irish song, and Irish sports.

I am the Irish language teacher for our annual camp. This is a camp I wish I had as a kid. It provides opportunities for kids to meet other kids with Irish backgrounds like themselves and kids of other traditions. It promotes exploration of their heritage, fosters self-esteem, it is educational and fun to be a part of Cultural Camp!

A little information on the different sections of the camp. In art youngsters might be drawing an Irish cottage, Celtic knot or design the Claddagh ring. In ceili dance they will learn some basic dance steps in ceili dancing. In craft they might make a shamrock wreath. In drama they will learn about Irish theatre for example "Dancing at Lughnasa." The traditional festival marking the beginning of the harvest. Or "The Plough and the Stars" by Sean O'Casey. It is about the 1916 Easter Rising. In Irish language hosted by myself, we will cover numbers, colors, animals, basic phrases and history of the language

and Ireland in general. In the stitching class it might include crochet or stitching a Celtic knot. In song there are so many Irish songs for example Wild Mt. Thyme, A song for Ireland or Danny Boy, etc... In sport they will learn about Ireland's national sports, Hurling and Gaelic football. The camp is a lively, unique, friendly, memorable experience for children that will promote their personal growth. It is on August 9th, 10th, and 11th at Gaelic Park, 6119 147th Street in Oak Forest. Come and see for yourself and be transported to the Emerald Isle. The cost is \$90.00, if interested please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323.

## Drury Lane Theatre announces casting for Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*

Drury Lane Theatre continues its 2022/2023 season with Agatha Christie's famous mystery *Murder on the Orient Express*, adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig, directed by Jessica Fisch. *Murder on the Orient Express* runs August 31 through October 23, 2022, at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook

Terrace. Tickets are available by phone at (630) 530-0111, Tuesday thru Sunday from 10am to 5pm or online at [www.drurylanetheatre.com](http://www.drurylanetheatre.com).

Tickets: Single Tickets: \$69 to \$84\* Wednesday and Thursday matinees: \$69\* ,Fridays, Saturday evenings and matinees, Sunday matinees: \$84\*, Thursday and

Sunday evenings: \$79\* ,\*Prices do not include taxes or fees \$5 discount available for Senior Citizens on Wednesday and Thursday matinees. Group discounts available to groups of 15 or more. Dining and show packages available. *Murder on the Orient Express* is rated PG. Subscriptions start at \$170.

## Chicago actor Jos N. Banks joins the cast of *Choir Boy*



Jos N. Banks  
Photo by iAmZekeD

Steppenwolf Theatre Company is pleased to welcome Chicago actor Jos N. Banks to the cast of its hit play *Choir Boy*, written by Oscar-winning

ensemble member Tarell Alvin McCraney. Banks will replace Tyler Hardwick in the role of Pharus Young through July 24, 2022 in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theater, 1650 N. Halsted St., Chicago. Directed by Kent Gash, the cast La Shawn Banks, Sheldon D. Brown, Richard David, William Dick, Gilbert Domally and Samuel B. Jackson.

*Choir Boy* threaded throughout with soul-stirring a cappella gospel hymns is the story of a

young gay Black man and his battle between identity and community. Pharus Young is a senior at the Charles R. Drew Prep School for Boys, an institution committed to building "strong, ethical Black men," where he endeavors to be the best leader of the school's prestigious choir in its 50-year history. But in a world built on rites and rituals!!

Single tickets for *Choir Boy* (\$20 to \$98) at [steppenwolf.org](http://steppenwolf.org), (312) 335-1650.

## OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN TRIBUTE

White Fence Farm 1376 Joliet Rd., Romeoville

September 9<sup>th</sup>

Celebrate the hits of Australia's Sweetheart at a fun dinner show! With four grammy awards and more than forty Top 40 singles, Olivia's fascinating career in music and movies makes for a fun trip down memory lane!



*Let Me Be There, I Honestly Love You, Hopelessly Devoted to You, Physical*

**Reservation price of \$45 INCLUDES ENTIRE EVENT:**

A delicious famous White Fence Farm 4-piece fried chicken dinner with all the fixin's, including a baked potato, homemade corn fritters, kidney bean salad, cottage cheese, cole slaw, pickled beets, and a coffee, tea or soft drink beverage, tax gratuity, and the fun show! Dinner served 5:45pm, Show to follow.

**Must Call To Reserve Seating: 630-375-9717**

[www.sweetreminder.net](http://www.sweetreminder.net)

## Gaelic Park Book Club

Library, 2nd Floor  
1:00-3:00pm  
September 2022 - May 2023

First Sunday of the month (or \*) we gather to discuss great Irish writers. Please join us! There is no fee. Even if you haven't read the book, all are welcome. Please contact me with

any questions, Tina Butler-Leonard, email: [Molanive@yahoo.com](mailto:Molanive@yahoo.com)

- Sept 11 Evening Class Maeve Binchy
- Oct 2 Complete Irish Mythology Lady Gregory
- Nov 6 The Gathering Anne Enright
- Dec 4 When All Is Said Anne Griffin

- Jan 8 The Last September Elizabeth Bowen
- Feb 5 Famine Liam O'Flaherty
- Mar 5 Irish-American Autobiographies James Rogers
- Apr 2 The Boy in the Striped Pajamas John Boyne
- May 7 The Titanic Sisters Patricia Falvey

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CONCERT SERIES

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July 21 - Neiv

Neiv is a 25-year-old singer-songwriter from Chicago who enjoys performing her original songs to audiences.

Sept 14 - Mara Love

Mara is a vocalist, pianist, and songwriter with a captivating and soulful indie sound. She was a contestant on Season 3 "X Factor USA," and has sang backup for greats like Barbra Streisand.

Aug 31 - Frank Rossi

Straight out of Chicago Heights, Frank has been charming audiences of all ages around the Chicagoland area for decades.

**FREE EVENT! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS**



**BURBANK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

### 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Outing

Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at Stony Creek Golf Course, 5850 West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street, Oak Lawn

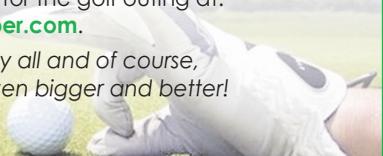
Shotgun at 9:00 am on red course | Dinner, Prizes & Raffles | **Play Games! WIN-Prizes!**

Golf & Dinner: \$125 per person, Includes dinner & 2 drink tickets.  
Dinner Only: \$30 per person, Includes dinner & 2 drink tickets.  
Foursome \$450 includes dinner & 2 drink tickets for each player

Please contact Barbara at [burbankchamber@att.net](mailto:burbankchamber@att.net) or call 708-425-4668 with any type of basket donations or individual items to arrange a pick up. We will list your business name w/donation on our website.

Please visit our website and sign up for the golf outing at:  
[www.burbankchamber.com](http://www.burbankchamber.com).

*Last year a great time was had by all and of course, this year we would like to make it even bigger and better!*



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**Friday, July 15 and Saturday, July 16, 2022**  
**8am to 4pm**  
Rain Date Sunday, July 17, 2022



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PREFERRED CONTRACTOR

## Internationally Acclaimed Frankfort Bluegrass Festival



Judging from last month's fundraising response in support of the 2022 Frankfort Bluegrass Festival, returning July 9-10 after a two-year pause, people are ready for their bluegrass.

With 40 performances by 20 bands over two days,

the 10th annual Frankfort Bluegrass Festival makes a triumphant return to the Briedert Green and Prairie Park stages in historic Frankfort featuring John McEuen of The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Robbie Fulks, Special Consensus, Fireside

Collective, Becky Buller Band and more. Bands will play from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

When the artists last left the stage, the Frankfort Bluegrass Festival was the reigning "Event of the Year" award holders as named by the International Bluegrass Musical Association.

"There is so much pent up energy on both sides, the artists who can't wait to play again and our great audience members who travel from several states," said Steve Haberichter, a founding member of the all-volunteer committee. "Our sponsors and supporters came through again to allow

us to stage a free bluegrass fest."

"Our supporters stayed with us and allow us to keep our pledge to bring free, top quality, award-winning bluegrass acts back this summer to showcase this truly American music," said Amanda Thompson, a fest coordinator.

"International recognition raised expectations just before a pandemic altered all our lives," said Steve Haberichter, a founder of the fest and participating musician.

"This continues to be a free festival and the Village of Frankfort is proud to support it and welcome it back after a two-year hiatus," said Frankfort Mayor Keith Ogle. "It is a music genre that captures the essence of the American people. The festival is in our charming historic downtown and has a relaxed and family friendly vibe that fits so well with our community."

Long-time sponsors Blue Island Beer Company dedicated its new Twin Fiddles Strawberry/Rhubarb Wheat Ale to the return of the fest, donating all proceeds.

There is free parking on site.

### Proud member of following 2022 Chambers

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Alsip Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.alsipchamber.org">www.alsipchamber.org</a>  | The Hills Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.thehillschamber.org">www.thehillschamber.org</a>                        |
| Bedford Park-Clearing Industrial Association<br><a href="http://www.bpcia.org">www.bpcia.org</a>                                   | Justice Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.villageofjustice.org">www.villageofjustice.org</a>                        |
| Blue Island Chamber of Commerce & Industry<br><a href="http://www.blueislandchamber.org">www.blueislandchamber.org</a>             | Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber - The OC Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.oc-chamber.org">www.oc-chamber.org</a> |
| The Burbank Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.burbankilchamber.com">www.burbankilchamber.com</a>                          | Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.oaklawnchamber.com">www.oaklawnchamber.com</a>                           |
| Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau<br><a href="http://www.visitchicagosouthland.com">www.visitchicagosouthland.com</a> | Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.orlandparkchamber.org">www.orlandparkchamber.org</a>             |
| Evergreen Park Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.evergreenparkchamber.org">www.evergreenparkchamber.org</a>               | Palos Area Chamber of Commerce<br><a href="http://www.palosareachamber.org">www.palosareachamber.org</a>                     |

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**Mosquito Control Update**

Significant rainfall paired with rising temperatures last month and earlier this month to create a bumper crop of mosquitos, but that doesn't mean the blood-sucking insects have won the war.

Mokena's annual seasonal program to prevent mosquito breeding and suppress mosquito populations, including those that carry mosquito-borne diseases such as the West Nile virus, is well underway.

The Village has a contract with St. Charles-based Clarke Environmental that provides for the treatment of Mokena's storm drains with larvicides to prevent mosquito eggs from developing and reduce subsequent flying, biting mosquito populations. With environmental protection and safety top of mind, Mokena has chosen to utilize Clarke's Natular XRT larvicide, a highly effective, naturally derived product that is registered with the EPA and listed with the Organic Material Review Institute (OMRI).

But the battle isn't won with a community mosquito treatment program alone. There are additionally numerous

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actions you can take as an individual to protect and persevere in the fight against these annoying pests.

To help prevent mosquito bites, public health officials recommend taking the following personal protective measures:

Wear CDC-recommended repellents such as DEET, picaridin, IR-3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus

Wear long sleeved shirts and pants

Avoid being outdoors at dusk and dawn  
 In addition, you can reduce mosquito populations around your home this summer by taking the following steps:

Removing or emptying water that has collected in old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles, or other places where mosquitoes might breed

Emptying plastic wading pools at least once a week and storing indoors when not in use

Changing water weekly in bird baths, plant saucers, and trays

Emptying and refilling outdoor water bowls used by pets daily

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**CLASSICS WANTED**  
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**ADVERTISE & Place your Classified AD Here!**

**Make Your Energy Choices Count**

(NAPSI)—Just as people across the country celebrate Earth Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR program celebrates all the ways people collectively act to protect the planet from climate change.

From switching to renewable energy sources and investing in electric vehicle technology, to simply changing out a light to an ENERGY STAR certified LED bulb, there is no better time to make a commitment to reduce your carbon footprint than right now.

Check out how you can make your energy choices count, and help your family save energy, save money, and protect the environment.

1. Choose ENERGY STAR certified products for your home: The typical household spends nearly \$1,900 a year on energy bills. Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR label can save you 24% or about \$450 on those bills, while avoiding more than 4,100 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Consider switching to

**Help Wanted**

**HELP WANTED**  
**Need Qualified (NEMT) Independent Driver Operators**  
**\$500 Gas sign on Bonus**  
 Call Us Today  
**708-365-4260**

**Blue Island Farmers' Market returns!**

Browse a great selection of local food, crafts, plants, and more!

At Northeast corner of Western Avenue and York Street, Blue Island

Come visit us on any Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: July 9, 16, 23 & 30; August 6, 13, 20, & 27

For more information contact City Clerk's Office at Blue Island City Hall or by email to rzyzman@cityof-blueisland.org.at (708) 597-8603.



**Show the world some love on Earth Day by saving energy—and save money too.**

renewable energy sources: Renewable energy is the fastest-growing energy source in the country and with options such as wind and solar power widely available, there are an increasing number of options for electricity customers across America.

3. Consider an electric vehicle for your next car: Electric auto owners spend 60% less to fuel their vehicles compared to with a gas-powered model. And with an ENERGY STAR certified EV charger, homeowners can save 40% on charging costs.

Learn more about how you can make your energy choices count on Earth Day and beyond at energystar.gov/earthday.

# Take advantage of Medicare plans with a variety of benefits.



## See how much you can get with a Medicare Advantage plan from UnitedHealthcare.

When you are turning 65, your opportunity to enroll in a Medicare plan begins. I can meet with you one-on-one to discuss your unique needs and answer any questions you may have about UnitedHealthcare® Medicare Advantage plans.

## Learn more by attending a UnitedHealthcare Medicare plan meeting

Events will follow applicable public health safety guidelines.

Oak Lawn, IL	Oak Lawn, IL	Tinley Park, IL	Tinley Park, IL
<b>07/07/2022</b>	<b>07/21/2022</b>	<b>07/21/2022</b>	<b>07/26/2022</b>
<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>
Jedi's Garden Restaurant 9266 S. Cicero Ave	Jedi's Garden Restaurant 9266 S. Cicero Ave	TK Insurance Services 16557 S. Oak Park Ave. D	TK Insurance Services 16557 S. Oak Park Ave. D

## It's time to take advantage.

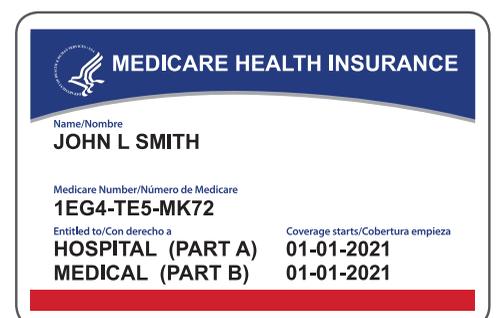
Call me today.

**Lisa Henry**

Licensed Sales Agent

**312-803-6901, TTY 711**

[lisa\\_a\\_henry@uhc.com](mailto:lisa_a_henry@uhc.com)



If you have this card, call me today.



For accommodation of persons with special needs at meetings, call 312-803-6901, TTY 711.

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