

Believe in Blue Island
Alderman Tom Hawley

Hello Everyone,

Happy Valentines Day!

Closer to home, thank you to everyone from Airline Towing who have not only donated their heavy equipment but also the labor to clear the main streets of all of the mounds of snow. You should notice around town, down Western Ave, etc. that the big mounds of snow are disappearing. This is all thanks to Airline Towing! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I heard Ladies Night at the Meadows was a big success! Betty Harmeyer would like to thank everyone who came out to support the event and the vendors who came out to make the night possible. I heard everyone had a great time! Betty is working on some other ideas for events like this. So, stay tuned!

I also heard the Blue Island Arts Alliance's Paint and Pour last weekend was also a big success. The event was sold out and Becky Denny and Val Merriman will be planning another one in the future. The Blue Island Arts Alliance's next events are Circus Boy on March 7th and then Nena Ivon returns to Blue Island on March 23rd for a presentation called "Little Black Dress." See below for details.

Don't forget to continue to vote for Georgie P's picture. He's currently in first place. His photograph of The Brookfield Zoo Polar Bear is up for voting for February please see this link <http://www.nwf.org/Kids/Ranger-Rick/Photo-Contest/Vote.aspx>

Do you have any new or gently-used books appropriate for students in grades K-5 in English and Spanish? The Eisenhower National Honor Society has been collecting and distributing them to District 130 students for the past seven years. NHS will distribute the books in early March to celebrate Read Across America (sponsored by the National Education Association) and the birthday of Dr. Seuss. NHS students also read with District 130 students on the day of the visit. This book drive has resulted in the distribution of more than 5,000 books to District 130 students. Thanks to all for their past support. If you have any books to donate, drop them off at the office at Eisenhower High School through the end of this month.

This weekend, celebrate Valentine's Day at Maple Tree, or head on up the the Eagles Hall as they start their Friday Fish Fries, or help St. Benedict's raise some money at their gala,

Want a Divvy Station in Blue Island? Visit <http://suggest.divvybikes.com/page/about> And support stations suggested for BI. We need lots more supporters! Check it out and suggest or support a potential Divvy location.

The organizers of the Ike Hike are looking for sponsors. If you are interested, there are three different levels: Gold (\$500), Silver (\$250) and Bronze (\$125). There are different benefits for each level. Please email Alicia Ramirez at Alicia.Ramirez@chsd218.org for the forms.

And Jen and Dave at the Rock Island Public House wanted to let everyone know that they have Blue Island scarves back in stock at the bar. Stop in at the bar, have a great beer, take in some tunes and buy a cool Blue Island scarf to keep you warm in these cold winter nights!

Also, remember the Ashland Ave. bridge over the Cal-Sag has been closed by IDOT due to structural damage caused by an accident. It is estimated it will be closed for approximately three months for repairs (by IDOT). Once the repairs are done, there should be no restrictions to vehicular or truck traffic. They are rerouting traffic to Halsted St.

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Valentine's Weekend at Maple Tree Inn

Come on out to Maple Tree Inn this weekend to celebrate Valentine's Day. It includes Chef Specials: Filet Oscar (an 8 oz Filet topped with jumbo lump crab meat and fresh sautéed asparagus, finished with Béarnaise Sauce) and Jumbo Shrimp and Lobster Bienville (a 6-8 oz. lobster tail and 3 jumbo shrimp topped with Maple Tree's Bienville Sauce and melted Provolone Cheese). Your choice only \$29.95 each. Reservations are recommended, call 708.388.3461.

When: Friday and Saturday, February 14 and 15, they open at 5 pm

Where: Maple Tree Inn, 13301 Olde Western Ave.

Blue Island Eagle's Fish Fry

Stop by the Blue Island Eagle's every Friday during Lent (February 14th through April 18th from 4 pm to 8 pm. Each fish basket is 3/4 of a pound of great fish. Stop on out and enjoy some great food!

When: Fridays, February 14th through April 18th, 4 pm to 8 pm

Where: Blue Island Eagles, 2427 Grove St.

St. Benedict Gala for Education

St. Benedict Catholic Church is having a gala to help raise money for the education of low income families and upgrades to their school computers and other technology. This is the first year for the event. It will feature a formal dinner, great entertainment and exclusive prizes. There are sponsorship opportunities and program book ads available. Tickets are \$100 each. For more information or to reserve tickets, contact Alma Nuno at [708.385.2016](tel:708.385.2016) or stbenbengals@hotmail.com.

When: February 15th, 6 pm to 11:30 pm

Where: Riviera Country Club, 8801 W 143rd St., Orland Park

Senior Yoga at the Field House

Senior yoga embodies the beneficial properties of yoga while understanding the needs of the elderly. You are invited to welcome Yoga into your weekly routine. This course will avoid harsh movements and focus on movements that are both gentle and beneficial. Wear loose clothing and bring a towel or yoga mat. Yoga is on Wednesdays from 10:15 am to 11:15 am now through March 12th. The entire program is \$42 for residents, \$62 for non-residents. It started already, but you can probably get in there.

When: Wednesdays, 10:15 am to 11:15 am

Where: Memorial Park Field House, 12804 Highland Ave.

Roots of Life

Bring the kids to the Library on Tuesday, February 18th where they can prepare family charts to learn about their own family's "Roots." Contact Mrs. Beasley at [708.388.1078 x 22](tel:708.388.1078) for more information.

When: Tuesday, February 18th, 4 pm

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St.

Lincoln-Davis Civil War Round Table

The Lincoln-Davis Civil War Round Table meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month and sponsors a presentation related to the Civil War. This month, they welcome Eric J. Wittenburg, author, lecturer and TV commentator, presenting "Enough Blame to go Around: Jeb Stuart at Gettysburg" on Tuesday, February 18th at 7 pm at the Country House Restaurant, 5400 W. 127th St in Alsip. Dinner can be purchased (beginning at 5:45 pm) prior to the lecture for \$10; admission to the lecture alone is \$5. Dessert will be served following the lecture. For more information, contact Wayne Wolf at [708.203.7201](tel:708.203.7201).

When: Tuesday, February 18th, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm presentation

Where: Country House Restaurant, 5400 W 127th St, Alsip

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Karate Kids: A Kickin' Good Time

Hi-YA! Get ready for the next level of martial arts for kids. Learn the art of Karate (Japanese martial art) in their follow up program to self defense. Along with cool new moves, you'll also learn the art of tolerance and techniques to deal with tough situations in a non-violent way. This intermediate class uses the experience of the previous session of self-defense to learn more challenging defenses. A minimum of one session of self defense is recommended. Dave Cervantes is the instructor. Cost is \$30 for residents, \$45 for non-residents.

When: Wednesdays, February 19th through March 26th, 4:45 pm to 5:45 pm

Where: Memorial Park Field House, 12804 Highland

Stray Dog's *Laura*

Don't miss Stray Dog Theater's production of *Laura*, a murder mystery thriller directed by Chas Seaton, assisted by Kristel Flynn. Cast members include Blue Islander, Tony Carsella, Caroline Sexton, John Madison, Kim Madison, Lil O'Donnell, Ken Schaefer, Christopher Demian and Nick Cuba. Show runs February 20th through the 23rd. 8 pm, Sunday matinee at 2 pm. Tickets are \$12, Seniors and Students are \$10. There's a Thursday Special...2 tickets for the price of one! Tickets are available at the door or by calling [708.841.7396](tel:708.841.7396). Support this great local theater group right here in Blue Island!

When: Thursday through Sunday, February 20, 21, 22, 23, 8 pm, 2 pm on Sunday

Where: Veterans' Memorial Middle School, 12320 S. Greenwood Ave.

Black Culture Night

Join Neighborhood Watch Group #37 to celebrate Black History Month with their annual Black Culture Night on Friday, February 21st at 7pm. This year, the Guest of Honor is historian Tyrone Haymore, the founder of the Robbins Historical Society and Museum. He will be speaking about the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as we celebrate 50 years of the Act. It's at the City Hall East Annex. It is a free event promoting and sharing the knowledge of historians and Afro-American legendary events. It's always a wonderful event, and generally also features delicious cake by Ald. Nancy Thompson!

When: Friday, February 21st, 7 pm – 9:30pm

Where: City Hall East Annex, 2434 Vermont St

Register for Little League and Pony Baseball

Registration for the Blue Island Little League and Pony Baseball is this Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm at the Memorial Park Field House. Little League is open to 4 to 12 year olds and Pony Baseball is open to 13 and 14 year olds. For more information about the Little League, call Jaime at [708.489.9572](tel:708.489.9572) or Rosie at [708.396.0708](tel:708.396.0708). For more information about the Pony League, call Phil at [708.597.3398](tel:708.597.3398) or Rosie at [708.396.0708](tel:708.396.0708). Registrations after February 22nd for Little League will be considered late and will incur a \$30 fee, so register!

When: Saturday, February 22nd, 10 am to 1 pm

Where: Memorial Park Field House, 12804 Highland Ave.

Blue Island Chamber Installation Dinner

The Blue Island Chamber of Commerce's Annual Installation Dinner is Saturday, February 22nd at Beggar's Pizza on Kedzie. Meet the new members of the Board, help celebrate some Blue Island citizens and businesses, network with business owners, listen and dance to some great, live music and have some great pizza! Call the Greg Lochow at the Chamber for more information: 708.388.1000.

When: Saturday, February 22nd, 6 pm

Where: Beggar's Pizza, 127th and Kedzie

Rude Tommy at Double Play

Come on up to Double Play Saloon Saturday for some great music! Rude Tommy is the band that night and you can hear them live! The party starts at 9:30 pm. the \$10 ticket includes food and door prizes. The doors open at 8 pm.

When: Saturday, February 22nd, 9:30 pm, doors open at 8 pm

Where: Double Play Saloon, 13011 Western Ave.

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Blue Island Days Party in Florida

John DeRango is planning a Blue Island Days Party open to anyone who lived in Blue Island or nearby areas. It's on Saturday, February 22 from 1 pm to 6 pm in the Bella Terra Clubhouse in Estero, FL. Contact John at johnnyd097@yahoo.com or by calling [239.948.5591](tel:239.948.5591) for more information. This event is sponsored by Aurelio's of Estero and Korbakes Liquors.

When: Saturday, February 22nd, 1 pm to 6 pm

Where: Bella Terra Clubhouse in Estero, FL

Bunco Bash

An afternoon of fun and games. Lunch and Bunco what a perfect combination. Doors open at noon lunch will be served from 12:30 pm until 1:30 pm, games start at 2 pm. The cost is \$20.00. There will be door prizes, 50/50 raffles and vendors displaying their products lines for you to shop. Also save the dates March 30 and April 27 for more fun Bunco afternoons.

When: Sunday, February 23rd, doors open at noon for lunch, games start at 2 pm

Where: Blue Island Eagles, 2427 Grove St

AMI Benefit Concert

The American Music Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to music education for all students, is having a benefit concert at our house. It will feature Southwest Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster and friend of Blue Island, Remus Badea, on violin. The event is Sunday, February 23rd at 3 pm. Tickets are \$45 each and include the concert, refreshments, drinks and a tour of the home. There will also be a raffle. Join us for an afternoon of music and help raise money for a great organization. Tickets may be purchased online at www.amimusic.org or by calling [630.850.8505](tel:630.850.8505).

When: Sunday, February 23rd, 3 pm

Where: Heimbach House, 13020 Greenwood Ave.

The Spirit of Motown

Musician Jose Sandoval's tribute to Motown Records, Berry Gordy and a sound that bridged the nation's racial divide while churning out more hits than the Beach Boys, Rolling Stones, Elvis and the Beatles combine. Sing along to old favorites like "My Girl," "I Heard it Through the Grapevine," and "Tears of a Clown." This event is funded by the Illinois Humanities Council. This is a ticketed event. Pick up your free ticket at the Library's Main Desk.

When: Wednesday, February 26th, 7 pm

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St.

Animal Welfare League Fundraiser

Deputy Police Chief Mike Cornell, is letting everyone know about this fundraiser for the Animal Welfare League. He has gotten a number of dogs from here and they are great to work with. They run on private funds and fundraisers like this. They do not receive any federal money. So join them on Saturday, March 1st, for their 3rd Annual Mardi Cause for Paws at 115 Bourbon Street. Advance tickets are \$35, kids 6-12 are \$20 and kids under 6 are free. Tickets are \$45 at the door. Ticket price includes food, beer, wine and pop. There will be live music by Timing's Everything and there are prizes for best male and female masquerade masks. All proceeds benefit the thousands of homeless, abandoned and abused animals the Animal Welfare League cares for each year. For more information or to purchase tickets, call [708.636.8586 x 268](tel:708.636.8586) or stop by Animal Welfare at 10350 Southwest Highway in Chicago Ridge.

When: Saturday, March 1st, 3 pm to 8 pm

Where: 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 115th St, Merrionette Park

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Blue Island Arts Alliance presents Circus Boy

The Blue Island Arts Alliance is bringing Circus Boy back to Blue Island for a special show aimed at kids 12 and under. He will be at Veterans' Memorial Middle School in the theater on Friday, March 7th from 4 pm to 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$5. Parents are welcome. Tickets are available at Carr home-garden-holiday or at the door. Visit the Blue Island Arts Alliance page on Facebook and find out more about what's going on.

When: Friday, March 7th, 4 pm to 5:30 pm

Where: Veterans' Memorial Middle School, 12300 Greenwood Ave.

St. Patrick's Day Tea

The Blue Island Historical Society is having a St. Patrick's Day Tea on Saturday, March 15th at 2 pm. The tea will be held at the Blue Island Historical Society Albee House. The cost is \$20 and reservations are required. Please call [708.371.8546](tel:708.371.8546) for further information or to make a reservation.

When: Saturday, March 15th, 2 pm

Where: Blue Island Historical Society Albee House, 13018 Maple Ave.

Men Who Cook

Mario Gomez and Chief Mark Luety will be participating in Men Who Cook competition and fundraiser for the Will County Children's Advocacy Center. This event features regular guys who prepare their favorite dishes and offer bite-sized samples to several hundred guests in a friendly and spirited competition to benefit a worthy cause. Dishes are entered in categories and judged by attendees with prizes awarded for the most popular recipes. There is no registration fee to be a cook, however, all cooks are responsible for purchasing their own food and supplies. One guest helper is admitted free. The event will be recorded by local cable television and each cook will be interviewed that night. Admission for the public is \$40 per person, \$75 per couple. Children ages 6-12 are \$10 and children 5 and under are free. To register as a cook, contact Pat Werner at [815.774.4564](tel:815.774.4564) or email pwerner@willcountyillinois.com by February 17th. Let's see if we can get a few more entries from Blue Island! Don't like to cook for 300 or just like to eat, it's a great evening!

When: Saturday, March 22nd, 6 pm to 9 pm

Where: Pipefitter's Training Center Local Union #597, 10850 W. 187th St, Mokena

Little Black Dress

The Blue Island Arts Alliance welcomes Nena Ivon, retired Fashion Director at Saks Fifth Avenue for over 50 years, back to Blue Island for a presentation on the infamous Little Black Dress. Learn about the history of the Little Black Dress and see how it has changed over the years. The presentation will happen at the historic Heimbach House. The \$10 ticket includes the presentation, refreshments and a tour of the home. Email me to reserve your spot, tickets are available at the door.

When: Sunday, March 23rd, 3 pm

Where: Heimbach House, 13020 Greenwood Ave.

An Evening with the Stars

Deputy Police Chief Mike Cornell, is letting everyone know about this fundraiser for the Animal Welfare League. He has gotten a number of dogs from here and they are great to work with. They run on private funds and fundraisers like this. They do not receive any federal money. So join them on Saturday, May 3rd, for An Evening with the Stars at the Sabre Room. Limited VIP tickets are \$50, regular tickets are \$40. Cash Bar, limited menu available, 50/50 Raffles and Adoptable Animals will be on hand. There will be live music by 4 different entertainers who will amaze you with how much they look and sound like some HUGE stars! All proceeds benefit the thousands of homeless, abandoned and abused animals the Animal Welfare League cares for each year. For more information or to purchase tickets, call [708.636.8586 x 268](tel:708.636.8586) or stop by Animal Welfare at 10350 Southwest Highway in Chicago Ridge.

When: Saturday, May 3rd, doors open at 6:30 pm, show starts at 7 pm

Where: The Sabre Room, 8900 W 95th St, Hickory Hills

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Ongoing Events

Girls Softball Clinics

A team that practices together wins together. There are few things better than the bond between teammates and here at the Blue Island Park District we believe that a head start in team bonding is key to a successful season in any sport. Get an early start on the season and become part of a team that is phenomenal both on and off the field. Participants of the clinics are trained in the fundamentals of fast-pitched softball all in pursuit of a victorious softball season. Hard work and determination will be rewarded with victory! Now recruiting players for the 14U Blue Stars, 12U Blue Angels, and 10U Blue Hornets 2014 Season. SAVE \$10 - Participants of our Girls Softball Clinic program will receive a \$10 discount towards the registration of our 2014 Girls softball league program. Discount is taken at the time of registration. Up to \$10 in discounts allowed. Clinics meet on Thursdays from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at the Veterans Memorial Gym.

When: Thursdays, through March 13th, 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Where: Veterans Memorial Gym, 12300 Greenwood Ave

Thirsty Thursdays

Have you ever been in a bar, saw their drink specials and wondered why your drink is never on special? Thirsty Thursdays are for you! Draft Beers, 12 oz. glass: \$1.00, 16 oz. glass: \$1.25, all bottled domestic beer: \$2.00, imported & specialty beer: \$2.50, Shots, Wine & Mixed Drinks: \$1.00 off regular price. NEW every Thursday night as well, no tap bowling for only \$9.00 begins at 7 pm starting Thursday, January 14th.

When: Thursday evenings

Where: Blue Island Eagles, 2427 Grove St

Men's Wiffleball

Come see what all the fuss is about. The Blue Island Park District's Mens Wiffleball league is a fun way to hang out with old friends and meet new ones. Played similarly like baseball, Wiffleball is a base running game played with a plastic bat and ball. Intense game play will keep you on your toes and off the couch. And on the plus side, you can now be honest to your doctor about being active. So, wrangle up some friends and head over to the Blue Island Park District for some Wiffleball excitement. The League begins January 24th and runs for 8 weeks on Fridays from 7 pm to 10 pm. Registration is \$225 per team and all games are played at Kerr Middle School Gym (yes, indoors). Register online or at the Memorial Park Feildhouse (12804 Highland).

When: Fridays, January 24th through March 14th, 7 pm to 10 pm

Where: Kerr Middle School Gym, 12915 Maple Ave

The Blue Island Park District Bitty Basketball!

The league will consist of 8 Saturdays from January 18-March 1, 2014 at Kerr Middle School. This Saturday (January 25) is draft day to divide participants into teams by age groups (6&7 and 8-10 year olds). The next five Saturdays (February 1-March 1) will be 15 minute practices followed by 40 minute games with score being kept on both courts. For more information, please call Beth Kazmierczak, Director of Recreation, at [708-935-8450](tel:708-935-8450).

When: Saturdays through March 1st

Where: Kerr Middle School, 12915 Maple Ave

Yoga at the Park

Join instructor Mike LaRocca for Monday night Yoga at Memorial Park Fieldhouse. The beginning class is from 6 pm to 7:30 pm and the advanced class is from 7:45 pm to 9:15 pm. Sessions are starting up again on January 6th through February 17th. Cost is \$49 for residents, \$63 for non-residents. Sign up at Memorial Park.

When: Mondays, through Feb. 17th, Beginners: 6 pm to 7:30 pm, Advanced: 7:45 pm to 9:15 pm

Where: Memorial Park Fieldhouse, 12804 Highland Ave

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Blue Island Eagles Twisted Tuesday Progressive Raffle

The Blue Island Fraternal Order of Eagles #1332 invites the community to help "raise the roof" with a series of special fundraising raffle events happening every Tuesday. Events are open to the public. Tickets are \$5 and you must be present at 9 pm for a chance to win the progressive pot. The pot started at \$100 and is up to \$2,050. A ticket will be drawn and that person will select a number from the progressive pot board. If the winning square is not selected, \$50 will be added to the pot for the following week. New tickets are sold every week. Proceeds will help their efforts to repair their roof. You do not need to be a member to attend.

When: Tuesday nights, drawing at 9 pm

Where: Blue Island Eagles, 2427 Grove St

Fitness Programs at Salvation Army

Check out the Salvation Army's new fitness programs going on now at the Salvation Army Center. Groove till you lose with Zumba, Step up to a better health with Tai Chi and Whip yourself into shape with Boot Camp. Membership and non-membership fees may apply. Come sign up today! For more information, visit their webpage at www.salvationarmyblueisland.org or contact them at [708.332.0100](tel:708.332.0100).

Where: Salvation Army, 2900 W. 127th St.

Salvation Army programs

Check out the Salvation Army for ongoing programs. They have Senior Lunch-in, Food Pantry, Fitness and Gym, After School Programs, Character Building Classes for youth, Music Lessons, Counseling, Computer Classes and rentals. For more information, visit them at www.salvationarmyblueisland.org or call them at [708.332.0100](tel:708.332.0100).

Know someone looking to buy a house in Blue Island?

Do you know some good people looking to purchase and fix up the vacant homes in town. If so, there's some assistance available for them! Sofia Aguilera sent me this link with some information: <http://www.ihda.org/homeowner/gettingLoan.htm#IllinoisBuildingBlocks> so if you know someone who wants to buy a currently vacant property and live in Blue Island, pass this on!

Thirsty Thursdays at the Blue Island Eagles

Thursday nights are now for everyone at the Blue Island Eagles! There are drink specials on every kind of drink. From special prices on beer to discounts on shots, mixed drinks and wine, everything has a special! So come on out on Thursdays. Bowling on Thursday's practice night is \$1.50 per game from 6 pm until closing. The Blue Island Eagles are at 2427 Grove St.

History on the Hill

Check out this link to watch an wonderful interview with Harry Robertson, a life-long resident of Blue Island. It's a series called History on the Hill and can be found on YouTube here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AlHMfdHb44&feature=youtu.be> and look for it on Channel 4!

Honor Flight Chicago

Pat Weseloh is volunteering for Honor Flight Chicago. If you're not familiar with this group, they raise money or collect donated frequent flyer miles to fly WWII Veterans to Washington, DC to see the WWII Memorial there. We are losing 120 of these heros a day and they are working to get as many of them to the Memorial as possible before they die. If you know anyone who would be eligible to take this Honor Flight, please contact Pat at [708.388.3732](tel:708.388.3732). She can help get the process started. If you would like to donate online, visit www.honorflightchicago.org or you may mail a check payable to Honor Flight Chicago to 938 West Montana St., Chicago, IL 60614.

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Blue Island Public Works accepting e-waste items!

Melissa Fuller from the City of Blue Island Public Works Department has sent this updated information about e-waste recycling.

Blue Island Public Works is proud to announce that we have partnered up with the Vet Tech Project for E-waste recycling! E-waste is considered as ANYTHING that has a cord attached. From computers and radios to hair dryers and old chargers! We now also accept old household batteries, DVDs, & CDs. All E-waste can either be dropped off at the Public Works Facility at 3153 Wireton Rd, or call Melissa for a special pick up. There is no charge for collection, and all items go to a GREAT cause. The Vet Tech Project provides technology education to American Military Veterans seeking to develop job skills in this field. The project recycles the unwanted E-waste by rehabbing them for charity. For more info or questions on any other recycling, please call Melissa at Public Works [708-597-8604](tel:708-597-8604), Monday through Friday, 7am to 3:30pm.

Do you have other things to recycle, old paint or other items? Melissa's MOST FAVORITE recycling website in the world is www.Earth911.com. When you go there, click on the "find a recycling center" tab then you can enter any type of material you want to recycle, type in your zip code and it will give you a list of the nearest places to accept them. How cool is that??

If you are looking for a place to bring all of your paper, find the District 130 paper dumpsters. They are all over!

Take a healthy heart and circulation exam!

MetroSouth Medical Center is offering a special exam (a \$250 value) for only \$45. It includes an EKG-monitored exercise test, blood cholesterol, triglycerides and blood sugar level, blood pressure, body mass index, cardiac risk factor analysis, and an ankle brachial index test. Call [708-597-2000 ext. 5615](tel:708-597-2000) to reserve. Where: MetroSouth Medical Center-Main Lobby, 12935 S. Gregory St., Blue Island

Other News

Spend it in Blue Island!

We just would like to ask people to remember to keep Blue Island small merchants, stores, vendors, restaurants and contractors in mind. If you are planning on doing home repairs, look for a Blue Island contractor. Having a party, look for food from a Blue Island business. Want to buy a special gift for yourself, consider a local store. Go out to eat in Blue Island. Go to your favorite store or restaurant or take a chance and visit a new one! Go bar hopping or dancing into the evening afterwards--they serve soft drinks, too and many even serve some pretty good food! Make a donation to your favorite Blue Island charity. Money spent in town comes back in sales tax revenue, etc. Keep your money in Blue Island as much as possible!

Seniors Ride Free!

If you are a Senior in town, the Calumet Township Senior Center has a free ride program! They will pick you up at your door and take you anywhere in Blue Island, Calumet Park and Riverdale. Even if you live in the Worth Township side of town, they will pick you up. They need 24 hours of advance notice. A great and easy way to get around town! Call [708.388.6606](tel:708.388.6606) to arrange a ride.

Properly dispose of old paint and stain

Diane Jacobson discovered that Naperville runs a state funded program to recycle many things such as polyurethane, oil paints, pool chemicals, car oils, transmission fluids, garden chemicals such as Round-Up and even unused prescription medicines and unused vitamins. Their program is on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 until 2; they have all of the information to tell you their location, what they will and won't accept, etc. on their website. People can check it out by googling City of Naperville Household Hazardous Waste. They will ask for a driver's license to prove

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that you live in Cook County. I was able to clean my garage of all of the things that I didn't want to put in the landfills; I am trying to find greener alternatives such as vinegar for killing weeds between bricks, in asphalt cracks, etc. You could get a group together to go out there and make a fun day of it. They unload your car. They do not take Latex Paint. Calumet Paint recommends putting kitty litter in the can to absorb the paint and then just toss it into your regular garbage can. The Naperville site is one of only two in the state that accept these items on a regular basis. Occasionally, towns will offer it once or twice a year, but you never know when that will be. Thanks for the tip, Diane!

Check out these three features on the String program at Eisenhower: Feature on orchestra growth, includes rehearsal

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0G_iR1f37vI

Rehearsal (different piece)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ALWxcZ1qWM>

Interviews

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uK5gmGF0a5E>

Bungalow Chef with Blue Island BBQ experts

<http://youtu.be/WD3I76LdScQ>

Leo Club Food Drive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=je1D3XbBhxc>

Father's Forum at Eisenhower

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waJXjgn85fw>

Eisenhower Sophomore Football Team takes Conference Title

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSGK6675_aw

Check out District 218's latest Newsletter

Go to this link: <http://en.calameo.com/read/0014054864e6bcc696fdf> and check out District 218's newsletter. You will see many aspects of student life showcased there including a spotlight on the Cool Place profile, Speech Team honors, Illinois State Scholars, Top 10 Breakfast, National Letter of Intent signing event and the Ike Hike. Take a look!

Trace your family roots

Hey genealogy buffs, have you ever thought of searching Cemetery records for clues and hints of your families past? The First Lutheran Cemetery of Alsip, (First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Blue Island) has been servicing the community for over 125 years. They have a service that will search via family name for just \$35.00 an hour! With the relationship of Blue Island and many of the founding families, this could be a great starting point for researching your family tree! Home address, funeral information, marriage, birth dates, date of death and next of kin information are often discovered in these searches. Just contact the First Lutheran Cemetery office, at [708-388-3377](tel:708-388-3377), stop by the office, at 4135 W.127th St. or you can find them on Facebook.

The Blue Island Historical Society

Please consider a donation to the Historical Society. They really do a wonderful job preserving the history of Blue Island. Any amount will be helpful. If you are not a member, please consider joining. You can join for life for a whole family very reasonably.

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Blue Island Public Library

There's lots going on at the Library--for adults, kids and anyone in between! Check it out--at the Blue Island Public Library! Library hours are: Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 9 pm; Friday and Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm September through May. For information about the Tech Annex, Email Darin Thompson at dthompson@blueislandlibrary.org for more information.

Are you up to date with BITV?

There's a lot online put up by BITV, Channel 4. Below are links for tons of interesting shows and events. There's something for everyone....history, food, health care, parades and more! Check them out!

Snow Route public service announcement

English <http://youtu.be/xpH1TeutGbI>

Spanish <http://youtu.be/KpacQfLYqmQ>

Shop Local

http://youtu.be/4Ug8gGln7_U

<http://youtu.be/lv8H0fcQ8eQ>

Chamber of Commerce Christmas Party

<http://youtu.be/Q9U8hzpcyKk>

Blue Island Light Parade 2013

<http://youtu.be/doCxd0BNNU8>

Blue Island Veteran's Day Parade 2013

<http://youtu.be/GicziznCipE>

Water Front Planning

<http://youtu.be/LaTyLAVI5PI>

Mayor Vargas Interview

<http://youtu.be/q2JXUzXUhLM>

Southwest Symphony 2013 Christmas Concert

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tG4U8EjtOI0&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-Mrmul_A

Carr Gardens Business Spot Light

<http://youtu.be/hmxKxFdX7ng>

Chamber Bash 2013

<http://youtu.be/fJ1sGYsVDcg>

Tuscan Grill Business Spot Light

http://youtu.be/mjclf5NpX_o

MetroSouth Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Family Birth Place

<http://youtu.be/sSQlpc0Uqjo>

Cavalcade of Pride 2013

<http://youtu.be/ytfisiFhsy8>

Believe in Blue Island
Alderman Tom Hawley

Final Cruise Night

<http://youtu.be/RCmcgrMR4YE>

Movie in the Park

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G_uwdl0Tgw&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-Mrmul_A

Cruise Night, August 26th, 2013

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqK0rtYXppY&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-Mrmul_A

Bridge Painting

http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=5DTJVD6HsMs&desktop_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D5DTJVD6HsMs

Cruise Night, August 19, 2013

<http://youtu.be/mSrlM9IUQio>

Governor Quinn in Blue Island

http://youtu.be/yqZY6Q_g2zY

Bungalow Chef Tours Olde Western Ave.

<http://youtu.be/fVsvEgeEohA>

Blue Island Public Library Update with Greg & Dan

<http://youtu.be/6aOKChdzEZM>

National Night Out 2013

<http://youtu.be/No-iP6ZA-Ms>

Bungalow Chef and B.I. Community Garden(Beets)

<http://youtu.be/bx1dpzmBIC8>

Bungalow Chef with Mayor Vargas

<http://youtu.be/eaGrZsi5btM>

Cruise Night, July 1, 2013

<http://youtu.be/cpKun5fb1TM>

Yard Sale on the Hill 2013

<http://youtu.be/QN2RrGskrZA>

California Gardens Community Garden (cg2)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvtSSJmmcmE&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-Mrmul_A

Tom & Tom Episode 1

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA4tEYtMYJc&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-Mrmul_A

Tom & Tom Episode 2

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8Is2r3n0-0&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-Mrmul_A

Tom & Tom Episode 3

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Qp59ul9br8&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-Mrmul_A

Believe in Blue Island
Alderman Tom Hawley

Tom & Tom Episode 4

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1LPOyELGFk&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-Mrmul_A

History on the Hill with Harry Robertson Part #1

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AIHMfdHb44&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-Mrmul_A

History on the Hill with Harry Roberston Part #2

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ezdr9dizW7w&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-Mrmul_A

--Tom Hawley

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I am trying to build an email list of people who are interested in Blue Island events and happenings both in town as well as things involving Blue Islanders out of town. If you have something you would like me to include in my emails, please email me at believeinblueisland@gmail.com If you would like to be removed from my email list, please reply to me and ask to be removed. I will not flood your mailbox with emails—I try to keep it to 1 per week. Feel free to forward this on to whomever you would like. If you would like to join my email list, please send an email to: believeinblueisland@gmail.com and I will add you to my list!
