

Believe in Blue Island
From Alderman Tom Hawley

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well. Another weekend, another snow! Stay safe, warm and dry!

I heard the St. Benedict's Gala Dinner was well attended by about 300 people. It was a very nice evening for all who attended. Also, Joe and Rosemary Murphy were on the Big John Howell and Amy Jacobson show on AM 560 Monday. Did you hear it?

We went to see Stray Dog Theater's production of *Laura* last weekend. It was very well done! Black Culture Night was also a big success. Very informative and interesting! Thanks to Rachele Orozco, Ald. Nancy Thompson and Willie Scott (among others) who puts this wonderful program together every year. The Blue Island Chamber Installation Dinner was very nice as well. Congratulations to the new Board members and to all of the winners! Then we headed over to see Rude Tommy at Double Play. They are always good and special guest vocalist Becky Denny did a great job as well. Thanks also to everyone who came to the fund raiser concert for the American Music Institute featuring Remus Badea, Concertmaster of the Southwest Symphony Orchestra. It was a very nice event and I hope everyone enjoyed the concert.

This weekend, go to the Cal-Sag Trail Bid Opening Party at RIPH, help some animals at the Animal Welfare League Fundraiser, see a Sister Roll the Dice, eat some spaghetti and audition for a show! In addition, there is the fish fry at the Eagles tonight as well.

Don't forget to continue to vote for Georgie P's picture. He's currently in first place, but it's neck in neck! 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>

Physical Education teacher, Brandon House at Whittier School, is requesting \$469.25 for two Nintendo Wii consoles with Wii Sports and Wii Sports Resort, two controllers and one Zumba Fitness package for his "Learning Fitness Through Exergaming" project. His goal is considerably improved student fitness scores by the end of the school year. "Exergaming has become a growing and exciting concept to be used in the physical education classroom," wrote House on DonorsChoose.org. "Students will have the opportunity to play fun fitness-related video games and apply their prior knowledge of fitness concepts to the games that they are playing." If you would like to make a donation, please visit <http://www.donorschoose.org/project/learning-fitness-through-exergaming/1143329/> by March 25. He still has a ways to go!

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.

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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.

Cal-Sag Trail Bid Opening Party

The Illinois Department of Transportation will be selecting the winning bids for the first construction contracts to build the Cal-Sag Trail right here in Blue Island! Try some Argus Brew and join or renew your membership in the Friends of the Cal-Sag Trail for just \$10. Get your new member card on the spot and a pint of Argus!

When: Friday, February 28th, 6 pm to 9 pm

Where: Rock Island Public House, 13328 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.

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

Sister Rolls the Dice

Looking for a fun night out? Late Nite Catechism is back with *Sister Rolls the Dice - Vegas Style!* For the low price of \$30 per ticket, you can eat, drink and be merry! Last year's show was full of side splitting, non-stop laughter. And you don't have to be Catholic to enjoy the show! Tickets are going fast. To reserve your ticket or for more information, call the St. Walter School Office at 773.445.8850 or get tickets at the door. Cost includes ticket for the show, pizza, drinks (beer, wine or pop) and a sweet table. Doors open at 6 pm.

When: Saturday, March 1st, 7 pm

Where: St. Walters School, 11741 S Western Ave.

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Rotary Spaghetti Dinner

Head on over for a delicious Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale raising funds for the Blue Island/Crestwood Rotary Club. The spaghetti is delicious and it's all you can eat. \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids. To go boxes are also available.

When: Sunday, March 2nd, 12 noon to 6 pm

Where: Elk's Club, 4428 Midlothian Turnpike, Crestwood

Stray Dog auditions

Blue Island's own theater troupe, Stray Dog Theater, is holding auditions for their next production, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* by Neil Simon. There are roles for 7 men and 2 women. Stage ages are variable. So, if you think you can act or if you CAN act, head on out to audition for this comedy.

Show dates are April 25th through the 27th and May 2nd through the 4th. Rehearsals and performances are at Veterans Memorial Middle School. Amanda Barclay is Directing.

When: Sunday, March 2nd, 2 pm to 4:30 pm and Monday, March 3rd, 7 pm to 9 pm

Where: Salem United Church, 9717 S Kostner in Oak Lawn

Public Gaming Hearing

The Chicago Southland Chamber hosts State Rep. Bob Rita and local lawmakers to discuss casinos and horse racing possibilities in the Southland.

Polka Party

Come on out and have some fun with Eddie Korosa, Jr.'s Fat Tuesday Polka Party! The party is at Christ Memorial Church where there's plenty of room to get up and dance. This is a ticketed event, but you can pick up your free ticket at the Library's Main Desk.

When: Tuesday, March 4th, 7 pm

Where: Christ Memorial Church, 2440 York St

Tax Time Update

Join Alpesh Patel, CPA at the Blue Island Public Library on Wednesday, March 5th from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm for an update on taxes. Get your questions answered about taxes related to FAFSA, general income tax filing, the impact on your taxes the new Affordable Care Act laws are going to have on tax filings this year.

When: Wednesday, March 5th, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St

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.

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St. Benedict's Lenten Fish Fry

Get your Friday Fish lunches and dinners every Friday during Lent (March 7th through April 11th). They serve fried or baked fish, french fries, cole slaw, cookies and a drink. Beer is available for purchase and ice cream is also available for a treat (small fee). Carry-outs are available as well. Lunch runs from 11 am to 1:30 pm and dinner goes from 4 pm to 7:30 pm.

When: Fridays during Lent, March 7th to April 11th

Where: St. Benedict Church, 2339 York St.

First Friday Art Show

After getting your fill at one of the two fish fries in town, head on over to Franklin Framing to check out some great entries and winners of the Friends of the Forest Preserves' annual photography contest. Light refreshments will be served.

When: Friday, March 7th, 6 pm to 8 pm

Where: Franklin Framing, 13019 S Western Ave

Celtic Harpist at the Library

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day! Come to Christ Memorial Church for an Irish Evening featuring Celtic Harpist Aislinn. Tuesday, March 11th is the day and it starts at 7 pm. This is a ticketed event, but you can pick up your free ticket at the Library's Main Desk.

When: Tuesday, March 11th, 7 pm

Where: Christ Memorial Church, 2440 York St

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, through March 12th, 10:15 am to 11:15 am

Where: Memorial Park Field House, 12804 Highland Ave.

Our Town

There's a lot of talent in Our Town! Kevin Denny, Beth Hrycaj and Sam Hrycaj have roles in Bethany Union Church's production of *Our Town*. This classic American 1938 Pulitzer award winning play reveals the ordinary lives of the citizens of Grover's Corners between 1899 and 1913 and the unappreciated divinity of companionship, friendship and love within the transience of human life. With these themes and its division of human life into birth, love and marriage, and death, this play established itself as the key to all drama. Three nights only! Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students. To reserve your tickets, call 773.779.0123 or email bethanyunionchurch@sbcglobl.net.

When: Friday, March 14th, 8 pm; Saturday, March 15th, 7 pm; Sunday, March 16th, 4 pm

Where: Bethany Union Church, 1750 W 103rd St, Chicago

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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, through March 26th, 4:45 pm to 5:45 pm

Where: Memorial Park Field House, 12804 Highland

Band and Orchestra Pancake Breakfast

The Eisenhower Annual Band and Orchestra Pancake Breakfast is on Saturday, March 15th. Proceeds benefit the instrumental program and help them purchase new instruments for their growing numbers for next year. Tickets are available at the door for \$5. You can get them in advance by calling Justin Antos at [708.597.6300 x4095](tel:708.597.6300) or emailing him at justin.antos@chsd218.org. It takes place from 7 am to 12 pm in the DDE Cafe, use South Entrance (S1). It's all you can eat and carry-out is available!

When: Saturday, March 15th, 7 am to 12 pm

Where: Eisenhower High School, 12700 S Sacramento

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.

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. In March, they welcome Michael Burlingame on "What More Can Be Said About the Civil War" 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, March 18th, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm presentation

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

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

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Men Who Cook (continued)

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.

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 date April 27 for more fun Bunco afternoons.

When: Sunday, March 30th, doors open at noon for lunch, games start at 2 pm

Where: Blue Island Eagles, 2427 Grove St

Easter Bunny Pancake Breakfast

Head on over to the Eagles on Sunday, April 6th from 8 am to 1 pm and have a delightful breakfast with the Easter Bunny! There will also be a cake walk, raffles, door prizes and a 50/50 cash raffle. And, yes, you can get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny! Tickets are on sale now from Auxiliary Members or at the door the day of the event. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for children aged 3 - 12 and children 2 and under are free!

When: Sunday, April 6th, 8 am to 1 pm

Where: Blue Island Eagles, 2427 Grove St

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

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An Evening with the Stars (continued)

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

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 Fieldhouse (12804 Highland).

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Men's Wiffleball (continued)

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

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 \$2,150. 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).

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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=9AIHMfdHb44&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.

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??

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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!

About the Fraternal Order of Eagles

The Fraternal Order of Eagles, an international non-profit organization, unites fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills, and by promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope. Founded in 1898, the Eagles fund research in areas such as diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease and cancer, and raise money for neglected and abused children and the aged, as well as work for social and civic change. The Blue Island Eagles has maintained a presence in the community since 1906 and currently hosts more than 200 combined Aerie and Auxiliary members. Stop out for a fun night of bowling, join us for a sports game on our multi big screen TV's in our bar. Bring the family for our Friday Night Fish Fry. Up coming events Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny Sunday, April 6th from 8am to 1pm. Fun fundraiser with dinner for our Ham and Bacon Shoot April 12th at 6pm. Need to rent a hall for a special event we have that too. For more information contact the Blue Island Eagles at [708-388-9739](tel:708-388-9739).

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.

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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 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/00140548620c415e33e66> and check out District 218's newsletter. You will see many aspects of student life showcased there including student achievements, speech team/JV Conference champs, Freshman girls basketball - 13 -1 season, Speech team-Friends and Family Night, Voter registration drive, Orchestra profile and Honor Roll. Take a look!

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From Alderman Tom Hawley

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 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.

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/xpH1TeutGbl>

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

Shop Local

http://youtu.be/4Ug8qGln7_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>

Believe in Blue Island
From Alderman Tom Hawley

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/sSQIpc0Ugjo>

Cavalcade of Pride 2013
<http://youtu.be/ytffsiFhsy8>

Final Cruise Night
<http://youtu.be/RCmcgrMR4YE>

Movie in the Park
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G_uwdIOTgw&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/ygZY6Q_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

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<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

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=Ezdr9dlzW7w&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-Mrmul_A

--Tom Hawley

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[708.612.5463](tel:708.612.5463)

I am trying to build an email list of people who are interested in Blue Island events and happenings

Believe in Blue Island
From Alderman Tom Hawley

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![]
