Believe in Blue Island
By Tom Hawley

Happy May! It seems like it was never going to get here.

A reminder: In celebration of the arrival of spring, the City is working their way through the City doing bulk pickup. They will be in the 4th Ward the week of May 5th, 5th Ward the week of May 12th, 6th Ward the week of May 19th and the 7th Ward the week of May 27th. Place all of your larger items you want picked up in the parkway near the curb. The City will be by to pick it up during the scheduled week.

We made it to the Autism Speaks fundraiser at RIPH last week. They had a great turnout and great raffle prizes. They raised money for Autism Speaks. It's still not too late to donate! If you'd like to make a donation to Autism Speaks in honor of Stu's Crew please Follow This Link to visit their personal page.

The Spaghetti Dinner at Mission Covenant was delicious, as always. Great turnout for that! Thank you to all who went and supported that. I saw a ton of you there! Also got to the Arts Extravaganza at Shepard High School. What a great night! These kids put their heart and soul into putting on a fun and entertaining evening. There's only one problem...you can't see everything! We did see Eisenhower's Interpretation of *The Book Thief*. Very powerful. We also listened to the Eisenhower Strings who get better every year! There was also an awesome combined work that 3 kids from each of the 3 schools put together about the history of District 218. It was great. I'm hoping to get it on BITV.

Check out this link from the Ike Hike this past weekend. It was a big success and they raised a bunch of money for Blue Cap here in Blue Island. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzaVk22sXHw

And then, check this out. For the past three years, Kerr students have created cards asking Eisenhower students to choose wisely and get home safe the night of prom. The cards display on the tables the night of the dance. How cool is that!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUwqSsZZLNw

This weekend is another busy one! *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* has one more weekend this weekend, the Boy Scouts have their Pancake Breakfast, The Meadows is having their Kentucky Derby event and their Cinco de Mayo celebration, Among the First at Lincoln Cemetery, Sertoma Firefighter Cook-off, Animal Welfare League event and the Historical Society Annual Meeting. Another busy weekend.

CARR home-garden-holiday is selling their beautiful 10" pots of geraniums in bloom and bud for $19.95 each or 3 for $50.00. Red, Pink, Violet and White available. Order today! Geraniums will be available for pick up on May 9th and 10th. They are located at 2357 York St.

Garden season is in full gear at Blue Islands two Community Gardens: the California Gardens Community Garden (CG2) at 141st and Francisco, and the Memorial Park Community Garden (MPCG), right behind the pool at the Parks District. Both gardens are accepting new gardeners and volunteers for the year, registration is going on now. We ask for those who wish to rent plots for $15 from Residents, and $20 from anyone who lives outside of Blue Island. This gives you water access, tools and education if you need it. Contact wwalters@cityofblueisland.org for info on membership at either garden.

Take this survey about getting around Cook County. Let them know what works and what doesn't as far as getting around the Chicago area. Martha Anderson sent me this url. It doesn't take too long to do, but get your opinions in for the south suburban area!
http://connectingcookcounty.org/involved-metroquest.html

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EVENTS

Laughter on the 23rd Floor by Stray Dog

Laughter on the 23rd Floor, by Neil Simon, is a wonderfully funny show in two acts that relates some of Neil Simon's experiences as a writer on Sid Caesar's live television show, YOUR SHOW OF SHOWS. "Laughter..." is set in the writer's room of the Max Prince show in 1953. You will laugh till you cry as you watch a TRUE ensemble cast starring (in order of appearance): Nick Cuba; Rocco Ayala; Tony Carsella; Sam Tocci; Mike Doody; Kristel Flynn; Brenda Bass; Ken Schaefer; Ame Amanda Barclay; and Robert (Charlie) Pasters. Directed by Amanda Barclay. To reserve tickets, call box office at **708-841-7396** to make your reservation. All seating is general admission and is limited to 120 seats per show. Call today to make your reservation...walk-ups may be limited...some new faces on our stage, as well as some returning favorites will hopefully fill our theater! ****NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AUDIENCES, DUE TO ADULT LANGUAGE****
When: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 2, 3 and 4. Friday and Saturday shows at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm
Where: Veterans' Memorial Middle School, 12320 S Greenwood

District 130 Band presents Music in the Park

The District 130 Band is hosting Music in the Park at Memorial Park, located at 12804 S. Highland Avenue in Blue Island, on Friday, May 2 at 6 pm. Please join students from the Blue Island and Crestwood bands for a night of musical entertainment. Concessions are available and proceeds will benefit the District 130 Band Program. For additional information or questions, please contact band directors Michael Bielecki at 708-385-6630, ext. 7317 or email mbielecki@district130.org or Ryan Flowers at 708-385-6690, ext. 7388 or email rflowers@district130.org.
When: Friday, May 2nd, 6 pm
Where: Memorial Park, 12804 Highland Ave.

Pancake Breakfast

Boy Scout Troop 788 is having their annual pancake breakfast, bake sale and raffle to raise funds so they can attend summer camp. Tickets are $6; children under 6 are free and include pancakes, beverage and sausage. Tickets available at the door. Before you start your day, stop by and have breakfast, it's the most important meal of the day!
When: Saturday, May 3rd, 7 am to 12 noon
Where: Christ Memorial Church, 2440 York St

Hazardous Waste Collection Day

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) will be hosting a Household Waste Collection Day on Saturday, May 3rd, from 8 am to 3 pm at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills. Clean out your house and dispose of hazardous items safely!
When: Saturday, May 3rd, 8 am to 3 pm
Where: Moraine Valley Community College, 9000 W College Pkwy (enter on 88th Ave), Palos Hills

Among the First

Head on over to Lincoln Cemetery at 1 pm for the 35th annual ceremony honoring pioneering aviators Bessie Coleman, Willa Beatrice Brown and Janet Harmon. It's always a great program. Educational, interesting and entertaining. Bring the kids and have great time learning about these amazing African American women...some who lived in this area...who were doing amazing things at a very different time in our history. Refreshments are served and everyone there is very nice and welcoming!
When: Saturday, May 3rd, 1 pm, free event
Where: Lincoln Cemetery, 123rd and Kedzie Ave.

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Kentucky Derby Event at The Meadows
Celebrate the 140th running of the Kentucky Derby at The Meadows Golf Club! For the ladies, make your own Kentucky Derby Hat to be worn during the race. $40 gets you everything to design and make your own hat, food and a Mint Julep. Call to reserve your spot now! Space is limited to 20 people. For the golfers, $45 includes 9 holes of golf in the afternoon, food and a Mint Julep back at the Club House. Call for a tee time. If you just want to be part of the festivities, $20 gets you food and a Mint Julep! Hat making starts at 3 pm, 5 pm for food and festivities with the race at 5:30 pm. Come and experience the most exciting 2 and a half minutes in sports at The Meadows! Reserve your space or tee time today! Call 708.385.1994.
When: Saturday, May 3rd, 3 pm for hats, golfing in the afternoon, 5 pm for food, race at 5:30 pm
Where: The Meadows Golf Club, 2802 W 123rd St

Sertoma Firefighter Cook Off
Sertoma Centre's BIG Event, Ken Dompeling and Joe DiNovo need your votes to help them win their 3rd People's Choice Award at this year's Firefighter Cook Off. You liked their pulled pork sandwiches and now they're hoping you'll enjoy their ribs, too! All proceeds from this event benefit programs at Sertoma Centre in Alsip. Watch firemen compete, enjoy live music performed by Audiomatic and sample some fantastic food! There will be games and crafts for kids and a magician/juggler, too! Join in the fun, support a good cause and give the Blue Island Firefighters your vote! Admission is $10 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under. You get food sampling tickets with admission and tickets are available at the door.
When: Saturday, May 3rd, 5 pm to 9 pm
Where: 115 Bourbon St, 3359 W 115th St, Merrionette Park

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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 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

Annual Membership Meeting
Chairman Mike Kaliski will give a report on the last year's activities of the Blue Island Historical Society. Joe Gatrell will also be there to present his latest book, *The Way Things Were Don: A Political History of Blue Island, Volume 1*. New members are always welcome! There will be an election for the three board member positions that will be open. The nominating committee is excepting nominations for these board member positions. Please contact, Betty Nagel @ 708-371-8546.
When: Sunday, May 4th, 1 pm
Where: Blue Island Historical Society Albee House, 13018 S Maple Ave

Summer Camp Registrations Are Now Open at the Blue Island Park District.
Summer camp begins June 9th at the Blue Island Park District. Summer camps include the wildly exciting *Day Camp* that runs Monday through Friday 9am to 3pm, the very popular *Mrs. C and Me (*formally known as Summer with Mrs.C), and the sunrise and sunset camps. Summer camp registrations are open to both resident and non-resident families. Space is limited, registration is first-come first-served. You may view details information about our summer camps at http://blueislandparks.org/programs/summer-camp/

REGISTRATION: Online: www.blueislandparks.org / in person: Registration office, 12804 S. Highland Ave. Blue Island, IL. 60406
Questions? give us a call • 708-385-3304. More programs from the Blue Island Park District are available at www.blueislandparks.org

Cinco de Mayo
Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at The Meadows! Sample food from several Blue Island restaurants. A DJ will provide music from 5 pm to 9 pm and watch Mexican cultural dances at 6 pm. They will have four different flavors of margaritas to taste!
When: Monday, May 5th, 5 pm to 9 pm
Where: The Meadows Golf Club, 2802 W 123rd St.

Green Drinks in Blue Island
Green Drinks returns to Blue Island where they will highlight the Chicago Wilderness Sustainable Watershed Action Team and their work in the South Suburbs. For more information, call Erika Hasle at the Field Museum at 312.665.7487.
When: Thursday, May 8th, 6 pm to 8 pm
Where: Rock Island Public House, 13328 Olde Western

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Cajun Music at Maple Tree Inn
Head over to Maple Tree In for some great Cajun food and live music from the Cajun band, Le Travaillant (Cajun French for "the working man"). They will play dance music from the French-speaking area of Louisiana. They are always great and the food is always delicious.
When: Friday, May 9th, 6 pm to 9 pm
Where: Maple Tree Inn, 13301 Olde Western Ave.

Flower Sale
Come on out to Grace United Methodist Church for their Annual Flower Sale. Beautify your yard and help the church at the same time! Hanging baskets, flats, vegetables, geraniums, begonias and many unusual flowers and plants are provided by Ted's Greenhouse. They always have a great variety of things to choose from.
When: Saturday, May 10th, 8 am to 3 pm
Where: Grace United Methodist Church, 12739 Maple Ave

From Ireland to Distant Planets
The Southwest Symphony's final concert of their gala 50th season is Saturday, May 10th at 7:30 pm. What a great way to celebrate Mother's Day! The concert will feature audience favorite Cross Keys Irish Dancers in the first half of the concert. The second half of the concert will feature Gustav Holst's *The Planets*. It will be performed with a spectacular multi-media presentation and feature the Oak Lawn Park District Voices of the Valley under the direction of Stacy Cunningham. It should be a great concert! Nancy DiNovo is in the Violin section and I am in the Bass section. Tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for seniors, $5 for students and children under 12 are free! Group ticket pricing is available. If you are interested in going, let me know. I have a group started already and you can get tickets for $12 each. Let me know and I will include you in the group!
When: Saturday, May 10th, 7:30 pm
Where: Trinity Christian College, Ozinga Chapel, 6601 W College Dr, Palos Heights

Build and Boogie
Do you have kids aged 3 to 12 who are looking for a great Mother's Day gift? Join the Blue Island Arts Alliance in building your own terrarium! When you are finished, learn a new dance to perform for an audience. Bring mini wood cut outs to personalize your terrarium, if you wish. Beggar's Pizza will be served to participants at 11:30 am. Tickets are $10 and are available at CARR home-garden-holiday or from a Blue Island Arts Alliance representative.
When: Saturday, May 10th, 10 am to 1 pm
Where: Memorial Park Fieldhouse, 12804 Highland Ave.

The Miss Firecracker Contest
Enter the Southern, small-town world of a cast of memorable and quirky characters as they prepare for the annual 4th of July carnival and beauty pageant. Here, a young woman's dreams of a blaze-of-glory are burdened by her family's foibles and her own checkered past. It is author Beth Henley's poignantly funny storytelling at its very best. The Beverly Theatre Guild's production of *The Miss Firecracker Contest* runs the weekend of May 16th. Tickets are available at the door or may be ordered at beverlytheatreguild.org or by calling 773.284.8497.
When: Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17 at 8 pm, Sunday, May 18 at 2 pm
Where: Baer Theatre, Morgan Park Academy, 2153 W 111th St., Chicago

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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. Tuesday, May 21st is the next one 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.
When: Tuesday, May 21st, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm presentation
Where: Country House Restaurant, 5400 W 127th St, Alsip

Candlelight Bowl for Eisenhower Boosters
The Eisenhower Athletic Booster Club is having a Candlelight Bowl fundraiser. Come on out, have some fun, bowl and support the Athletic Program at Eisenhower High School. The cost is $20 per person. If you need tickets or if you would like to donate something for the raffle baskets, please contact Tim Baker at timothy.baker@chsd218.org.
When: Saturday, May 31st, 7 pm
Where: Burr Oak Bowl, 3030 Burr Oak Ave

District 130 East Band Day Fundraiser with the Chicago Fire
Join the District 130 East Band for an afternoon of music and soccer at the match between the Chicago Fire and LA Galaxy on Sunday, June 1 at 3 pm at Toyota Park, located at 7000 S. Harlem Ave. in Bridgeview. Pre-match entertainment will be provided by the District 130 East Band and all proceeds will benefit Blue Island school bands. Great Corner Kick seats are available at a reduced price of $20 and parking passes can be purchased at a discount of only $12. To purchase tickets, please come to Veterans Memorial Middle School, located at 12320 S. Greenwood in Blue Island, by Tuesday, May 6. Only cash payments will be accepted. Tickets are based on availability. For additional information or questions, please contact Michael Bielecki, District 130 East Band Director, at 708-385-6630, ext. 7317 or emailmbielecki@district130.org or Will Culbertson with the Chicago Fire at 708-496-6679 or wculbertson@chicago-fire.com.
When: Sunday, June 1st, 3 pm
Where: Toyota Park, 7000 S Harlem Ave, Bridgeview

Mayor's and Blue Island Independent Party's Golf Outing
Save the date! The Blue Island Independent Party is making plans for their second golf outing. It will be Friday, June 13th with a shotgun start at 10 am at the Meadows Golf Course in Blue Island. They are looking for donations from companies to be used as raffle prizes or door prizes. Hole sponsorships are $100 per hole. Other sponsorships are also available. Or get together a foursome for golf. For more information, call 708.824.9171.
When: Friday, June 13th, 10 am shotgun start, Dinner at 6 pm
Where: The Meadows Golf Course, 2802 W 123rd St.

Yard Sale on the Hill
Come on out and pick up some treasures at your neighbor's house! Come on out to the Yard Sale on the Hill.
When: Saturday, June 21st, 8 am to 3 pm
Where: 127th to Vermont between Western and Highland

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Mark your calendars now! Eisenhower High School is having a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day on Saturday, June 28th from 8 am to 3 pm. This is your opportunity to dispose of household products that are harmful to your health and the environment. Drop off aerosol cans, anti-freeze, auto and boat batteries, cleaning products, drain cleaners, herbicides, insecticides and pesticides, hobby chemicals, household batteries, lawn and garden

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Household Hazardous Waste Collection (continued)
chemicals, mercury, motor oil and gasoline, oil based paint and paint thinners, pool chemicals, solvents and strippers, used/unwanted/expired pharmaceuticals. Clean out your house and dispose of these items properly!
When: Saturday, June 28th, 8 am to 3 pm
Where: Eisenhower High School, 12700 Sacramento Ave.

Windy City Thunderbolts Game
The Blue Island Little League is selling tickets for a league baseball outing. Please help us raise funds by purchasing tickets for this game. This year we are having it on a Saturday, which is Fireworks Night. The tickets are only $10 and make great gifts. If you are interested, please contact Rosie at 708.396.0708 or 708.439.9103.
When: Saturday, June 28th, 6:05 pm
Where: Standard Bank Stadium, 14011 S Kenton Ave, Crestwood

Ongoing Events

For Seniors
Are you a Senior or do you know a Senior in Blue Island and beyond? They can join Senior Circle at MetroSouth Medical Center. Their mission is to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle for seniors 50 and better by providing programs that encourage continued learning, wellness, health and volunteering, coupled with a host of social activities. For only $15 per year, members get the following benefits: In-hospital perks: complimentary upgrade to a private room based on availability, free meal per day for spouse or caregiver of a hospitalized member, monthly Breakfast Club (health presentations with complimentary breakfast), Bingo, 4 Winds Casino Trip, Day Trips, overnight trips, health fairs, free screenings, and a copy of the newsletters and magazines by Senior Circle. There are also national discounts on drugs, vision care, hearing care and even car rentals! Check it out! For more information or to join, call Gloria at 708.489.7927.

We Won!
If you haven't heard the interview on WBEZ for Curious Chicago, go here and listen (or read)! http://www.wbez.org/series/curious-city/how-blue-island-fought-chicagos-annexation-attempt-109763

Check out these links about Eisenhower's Peer Buddy Program
Part A
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Di3adOTxvjQ

Part B
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wv0VjNemjHU

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. Practice bowling is available as well for $1.50 per game 6 pm to close.
When: Thursday evenings
Where: Blue Island Eagles, 2427 Grove St

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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 $2,450. 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 atwww.salvationarmyblueisland.org or contact them at 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.orgor call them at 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!

History on the Hill
Check out this link to watch a 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 heroes 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. 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, 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 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. Upcoming 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.

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 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 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/WD3l76LdScQ

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

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Conference champs, Freshman girl's basketball - 13 -1 season, Speech team-Friends and Family Night, Voter registration drive, Orchestra profile and Honor Roll. 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, 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/xpH1TeutGbI
Spanish http://youtu.be/KpacQfLYqmQ

Shop Local
http://youtu.be/4Ug8gGIn7_U
http://youtu.be/Iv8H0fcQ8eQ

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
By Tom Hawley
Mayor Vargas Interview
http://youtu.be/q2JXUzXUhLM

Southwest Symphony 2013 Christmas Concert
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tG4U8EjtOl0&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXIx-MrmuI_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_uwdI0Tgw&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXIx-MrmuI_A

Cruise Night, August 26th, 2013
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqK0rtYXppY&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXIx-MrmuI_A

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

Cruise Night, August 19, 2013
http://youtu.be/mSrlM9lUQio

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

Believe in Blue Island
By Tom Hawley
Bungalow Chef and B.I. Community Garden (Beets)
http://youtu.be/bx1dpzmBlC8

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-MrmuI_A

Tom & Tom Episode 1
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA4tEYtMYJc&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-MrmuI_A

Tom & Tom Episode 2
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8Is2r3n0-0&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-MrmuI_A

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

Tom & Tom Episode 4
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1LPOyELGFk&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-MrmuI_A

History on the Hill with Harry Robertson Part #1
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AlHMfdHb44&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-MrmuI_A

History on the Hill with Harry Roberston Part #2
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ezdr9dlzW7w&feature=share&list=UUcw20rsC4uLoXlx-MrmuI_A

--Tom Hawley
believeinblueisland@gmail.com

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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!

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