

Believe in Blue Island
By Alderman Tom Hawley

Hi Everyone,

Tomorrow is the end of Meteorological Winter, but you can't tell by the weather! Seems like the weather people were caught off guard with the snow. I don't remember hearing we were supposed to get that much. Now they are calling for 3" - 6" more on Sunday. Those snows are harder to clean up the streets because more people are home and there are lots of cars on the streets. Please be mindful of the snow routes. If you see a snow route sign, parking is banned if when we hit 2" of snow. Also, if you can try to organize your block to have people park on one side of the street overnight on Sunday, it will help greatly with cleanup. I know some of that is hard to do with so many cars on a block, but if you can work it out, it would be helpful!

People are generally very good at helping their neighbors. If you know there is someone who is older or sick and cannot shovel their walks and driveways, it's great if you can help out. If you know of someone who cannot clear their sidewalk, send me an email and we can see if we can get some help out there. Everyone working together helps make Blue Island a great place to live.

If you haven't done so already, please sign up for CODE RED. This is a great system to notify residents about important information. Not only for emergencies, but also general information that the City needs to communicate to the residents. It's not used often, but when it is, it's always good information. Go here: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BFD966543882> to sign up today!

The Blue Island Police Department and FOP Lodge 180 will be participating in the Polar Plunge on March 7th in Manteno at the Sportsman Club. The Polar Plunge is a fundraiser for the Special Olympics and all proceeds go to the Special Olympics. If you can, come out and join us or donate. You can donate to the team or an individual. To donate, go here: <http://soill.donordrive.com/index.cfm>. The scroll down to the March 7th-Manteno entry. In the search box, type in Blue Island and click "Search." Ald. Carr is also participating and you can make a donation here: <http://soill.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.participant&participantID=8217> Thank you for your support!

The Public Works Department will be collecting the planters uptown over the next couple of weeks to clean them out and give them a fresh coat of paint for the spring. Mayor Vargas wants to spruce them up a little. So, if you notice them missing, that's what happened to them. They will be returned and planted in a couple of months...hopefully we'll be past the bad weather! If you are interested in helping to plant them this spring, please let me know. We'll be looking for volunteers to water as well. If you would like to help, shoot me an email! Thanks!

The City of Blue Island is looking to designate a Business District which will help raise sales tax revenue that will go into a special fund for improvements and other activities within that district. The Finance and Community Development Committees will be discussing this at a joint meeting on March 3rd at 7:45 pm in City Council Chambers. There will also be a Public Hearing before the City Council meeting on March 10th at 6:30 pm also in City Council Chambers. For more information, check out: <http://www.blueisland.org/business/bdd/> for more information and if you have any questions, feel free to email me.

The Blue Island Chamber had their Annual Installation Dinner last Saturday. At that dinner, they presented their awards. Congratulations to this year's winners! Iversen's Bakery was named the Business of the Year. Woman of the Year went to Jackie Callham formerly of Great Lakes Bank. Man of the Year went to Justin Antos, Eisenhower High School's Band Director. Jim Reihel won Volunteer of the Year for his work with the American Legion Post #50 and the Veteran's Day Parade. Korbakes Liquors received a Centennial Award celebrating 100 years of business in Blue Island! And Ron Blouin received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work at Blue Cap. All very deserving! Check out this link about Justin Antos and his award done by DDE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_bGSwrXonA

Believe in Blue Island

By Alderman Tom Hawley

This weekend, there's the Lenten Fish Fries at St. Benedict's and the Eagles, there's a winter Farmer's Market at Beverly Unitarian Church, you can check out Nancy DiNovo at A USO Tribute Show in Orland Park or help with clean up at Kickapoo Woods. Hope you can make something!

Looking for Lenten Specials for lunch or dinner? Stop by D'Masti's and check out their Lenten Specials. And remember, their Potato Salad is Lenten friendly as well! They have dinners available for carry-out that include fries, cole slaw, roll and butter. They are offering Breaded Shrimp, Perch Filets, Catfish, Fried Clams, Breaded Cod Fillet Sandwich, Breaded Catfish, Perch, Shrimp or Clam Po-Boys and their Caprese Sandwich is also an option.

SER Central States is looking for a Youth Employment Specialist. They are responsible for recruiting and coordinating employment placement efforts for youth participants. Duties include obtaining and securing employment/internship opportunities for youth participants, assisting in job readiness training, case management and retention activities. Areas of responsibility include: managing employer relations, youth supervision and program data reporting. For more information, send me an email and I will send you the full listing.

Check out what's happening at Oak Street Health! Every week, they have activities for seniors. On Mondays at 10 am, they have Arts & Crafts; Tuesdays at 10:30, Hatha Chair Yoga; Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9:30, computer classes; Wednesdays at 1 pm, Crochet Circle; Thursdays at 2 pm, BINGO; and Fridays at 3 pm is Movie Night! So, if you are a senior or know one that is looking for something to do, check out one of these activities! This Tuesday, February 24th, they have a ComEd presentation to learn about the electric smart meter and next Friday, February 27th, the Center for Disability and Elder Law is having an informational session. You will learn if you are eligible and be able to receive legal assistance and schedule an appointment. They are located at 3046 W 127th St, right across from Eisenhower High School. You can visit oakstreethealth.com for more information.

They are trying to bring back 16 inch, no glove softball, Chicago's Game! It was in its heyday years ago here in Blue Island at Hart Stadium and Centennial Park. Blue Island Park Director Bob Manthei and the Chicagoland Prep Report Show and host, Chicago 16 inch Softball Hall of Famer, Tim Maher are bringing back softball on Monday and Friday Nights at here at Hart Stadium. They will televise 3 games a night at 6:30, 7:45 and 9 pm live, all over the country at www.chicagolandprepreport.com. All games will be saved and archived to be viewed at any time. They are looking for sponsors and teams. I have four bits of information. If you are interested in getting them, email me and I can forward them to you or you can call Tim Maher at [708.518.4133](tel:708.518.4133).

Do you know a kid in grades 5 through 8 who's smart with money? Have them write an essay about what is the biggest obstacle to saving their money? What technological and/or banking solutions might help them and their friends begin to save. Submissions need to be postmarked by March 9th. For more information, go to: [2015 Money Smart Kid Essay contest](#)

Colleen Walsh sent me information for Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program. They are accepting nominations for kids aged 6 to 18 who have made a difference in your community. Store Winners will receive a \$50 Kohl's Gift Card, Regional Winners will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for higher education and National Winners will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship! You must be 21 and over to nominate and the deadline is March 13th. So, check it out! To nominate, visit: <http://www.kohlscorporation.com/CommunityRelations/scholarship/>

This is the last weekend you can bring in your old baby gear or furniture to Toys "R" Us and Babies "R" Us and receive 25% off your purchase. There's no limit! You can trade in as many items as you want regardless of where you purchased it and no receipt is necessary. You can do this from now until February 21st. Trade in any cribs, car seats, bassinets, strollers, travel systems, play yards, high chairs, walkers, swings, bouncers, entertainers, toddler/twin beds. It's the perfect opportunity to remove older products and get new ones that are safer! Great for grandparents!

Believe in Blue Island
By Alderman Tom Hawley

Representative Rush sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Visit rush.house.gov for more information and to complete the 2015 Student Information/Release Form.

Comcast Sportsnet Chicago profiled Eisenhower and Northwestern University graduate, Tom Stuckey, and his volunteer work in District 218. The feature includes footage of the small group discussions he manages at Eisenhower, interviews with DDE students, senior Quentin Kelly and freshman Jennifer Tejada, and he discusses his book "Impoverished State of Mind" and his motivation for volunteering. Check it out here: http://www.csnchicago.com/video_content_type/stuckey-inspiring-change-chicago-community

Lenten Fish Fry Fridays

St. Benedict Catholic Church will be having their annual Lenten Fish Fry every Friday. The Fry starts on Friday, February 20th and runs through Friday, March 27th. Lunch hours run from 11 am to 1:30 pm and dinner hours run from 4 pm to 7:30 pm. Dine in and carry out are available. It's affordable and a good way to get out of the house in the winter. And the food is delicious! Check it out.

When: Fridays, February 20th through March 27th
Lunch: 11 am to 1:30 pm, Dinner: 4 pm to 7:30 pm
Where: St. Benedict Catholic Church, 2339 York St

Fish Fry at the Blue Island Eagles

They're back for another delicious Fish Fry season at the Blue Island Eagles. Starting Friday, February 13th through Friday, April 3rd (Good Friday), they will be serving dinner from 4 pm to 8 pm at the Eagles Hall. They have a great variety of food to choose from and the food is reasonably priced and quite tasty! So stop out and join them for a fabulous dinner!

When: Fridays, February 13th through April 3rd, 4 pm to 8 pm
Where: Eagle Hall, 2427 Grove St.

USO Tribute Show

Nancy DiNovo is performing in a musical program with the Orland Park Theatre Troupe. A cast of 12 women will be singing a variety of secular and patriotic songs honoring our military veterans. This is a singing debut for Nancy, so, if you can, head on over and take a listen! Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors and students and \$9 for children (12 and under). Come and show your support of our vets!

When: Friday and Saturday, February 27th and 28th, 7 pm; Sunday, March 1st, 2 pm
Where: Orland Park Civic Center, 14750 Ravinia Ave.

Winter Farmer's Market

Support farmers within a 200 mile radius of Chicago by buying organic produce, herbs and meat from grass fed animals, cheeses, soaps, syrups and fair trade products at the Annual Winter Farmers Market & Fair Trade Marketplace hosted by Green Sanctuary Group of Beverly Unitarian Church, 10244 S Longwood Drive, from 9 am to 1 pm, Saturday, February 28. For more information, call [773-233-7080](tel:773-233-7080) or visit www.beverlyunitarian.org.

When: Saturday, February 28th, 9 am to 1 pm
Where: Beverly Unitarian Church, 10244 S Longwood Dr, Chicago

Kickapoo Woods

Chris Weber is meeting Saturday, February 28th to cut and burn brush at Kickapoo Woods. The local nonprofit Faith in Place will be bringing 45 excellent volunteers from Celia Gregg AME Church, St. Sabina, Trinity All Nations and Trinity UCC. Come and welcome them and show them around. They'll have tours, storytelling, maybe a few games and, lunch.

When: Saturday, February 28th, 10 am to 2 pm
Where: Kickapoo Woods, 14498 S Halsted

Believe in Blue Island
By Alderman Tom Hawley

First Tuesday Series at the Library - Help the Monarchs!

The Library and the Friends of the Forest Preserves is presenting a series of First Tuesday presentations about nature and the outdoors. The next one is on Helping the Monarchs. The monarch butterfly is Illinois' State Insect, but its survival now hangs in the balance. The "Monarch Midwife," Pat Haynes, explains what is happening and what can make all the difference for monarchs. For more information, contact Dan Carroll at [708.388.1078 x 30](tel:708.388.1078) or dcarroll@blueislandlibrary.org.

When: Tuesday, March 3rd, 7 pm

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St

Meet Mark Rothman

Head on over to the Blue Island Historical Society to meet TV mogul, Mark Rothman. Mr. Rothman is the man behind some of television's most popular shows including *Happy Days*, *Laverne and Shirley*, *The Odd Couple* and more! He will be reading from his memoir and talk about the Fonz and all of the others at this fun event. Copies of his book will be available for sale and he will be signing copies following the presentation. This event is by ticket only and the free tickets are available at the Library's Main Desk, while they last. For more information, contact Dan Carroll at 708.388.1078 x 30 or dcarroll@blueislandlibrary.org.

When: Tuesday, March 3rd, 7 pm

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

Seed Lending Library

Think Spring!!! The Friends of the Blue Island Library and the Blue Island Park District Community Garden are sponsoring a free seminar on seed saving at the Blue Island Library, 2433 York St. on March 4, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Anna Stange will present different techniques on seed saving. FREE seeds will be available at the seminar. Contact the Library, [708 388-1078](tel:708.388.1078) for more information.

When: Wednesday, March 4th, 7 pm

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St

St. Walter School Endowment Fund Dinner Dance

Put on your dancing shoes and join us for a fun night of food, drinks, music and fabulous auction items. This year, they are celebrating 20 years of raising funds for St. Walter School. The Dinner Dance takes place at the Doubletree Hotel in Alsip on Friday, March 6th from 6:30 pm to Midnight. Tickets are \$60 and includes dinner and drink tickets. If you would like to make a donation to their auction or order tickets call: [773.445.8850](tel:773.445.8850) or [312.351.2378](tel:312.351.2378).

When: Friday, March 6th, 6:30 pm to Midnight

Where: Doubletree Hotel, 5000 W 127th St, Alsip

Chocolate Love!

The Blue Island Historical Society is looking for Chocolate Brownie Bakers! All you need to do is bake a pan of your famous homemade brownies and bring them to the BIHS/Albee House between 9 am and 11 am on Sunday, March 8th. They will be judged by the Blue Island Expert Brownie Taster Team (how do you get to be part of that team?) and prizes will be awarded at 3:30 pm. Winners will be recognized in the BIHS Newsletter. Bring the recipe to, if possible, they will be bound and copied for local distributions. Don't bake? Come to their all you can eat chocolate buffet. It will include chocolate coffee/tea, chocolate bacon, chips, fruits, mouse, cakes, brownies and more while donations last! Advance tickets are available until March 7th for \$8.00 or at the door for \$10. Email events@blueislandhistoricalsociety.com to reserve your tickets.

When: Sunday, March 8th, 9 am to 11 am, brownie drop off, Tasting, noon to 4 pm

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

Believe in Blue Island

By Alderman Tom Hawley

Blue Island's Got Talent

Can you sing? Dance? Play a musical instrument? Have a great, family friendly, comedy routine? You want to show off your talent and possibly win a \$100 VISA gift card? The Blue Island Public Library is looking for you! There's a limit of 20 competitors (first come, first served, so sign up soon! Acts should be no more than 3 minutes long. Musicians need to provide their own instruments and singers need to provide back-up tracks or sing A Capella. Open to ages 13 and up. Audience members vote. Contact Colleen Waltman at cwaltman@blueislandlibrary.org or [708.388.1078 x 14](tel:708.388.1078) or Mike Byrne at mbyrne@blueislandlibrary.org or [708.388.1078 x 12](tel:708.388.1078).

When: Saturday, March 7th, 11 am

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St.

Jewel Thieves, Stray Dog Theatre

Blue Island's own Theatre Troupe proudly announces their Spring Production! ***Jewel Thieves*** is a preposterous comedy in two acts by Norman Belm. When the legendary Mandarin necklace disappears out of former film star Gloria Desmond's safe, it becomes apparent that the Countess visiting her, the new butler and the mysterious stranger with car trouble may NOT be who they CLAIM to be. A wonderful play for those who love the slick, sophisticated comedy mystery films of the 1930's! Tickets are on sale now by calling 708.841.7396 and are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors. Blue Island's own Tony Carsella is director and in the show! They are great productions. Come on out and support local theater right here in Blue Island!

When: Friday and Saturday, March 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8 pm, Sunday, March 15 and 22nd at 2 pm

Where: Veteran's Memorial Middle School, 12320 S Greenwood 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. Tuesday, March 17th 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](tel:708.203.7201).

When: Tuesday, March 17th, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm presentation

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

Home Buyers Seminar

A.J. Smith Federal Savings Bank is having their 14th Annual Home Buyers Seminar. Learn how to buy a home and get tips from experts in the industry. The American dream is within your reach! Check it out. To reserve a seat, call 708.237.8128 or email jwalko@ajsmithbank.com. Continental breakfast will be served.

When: Saturday, March 21st

Where: A.J. Smith Federal Savings Bank, 14757 S Cicero Ave

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Join the Easter Bunny for a Pancake Breakfast at the Blue Island Eagles Hall on Sunday, March 22nd from 8 am to 12 noon. You'll be served fluffy pancakes, sausage, milk, orange juice and coffee. Children 3 to 10 are \$4 and everyone 11 and up are \$6, children aged 2 and under are free. There will be a fun cake walk, pictures with the Easter Bunny and a coloring contest. Tickets are on sale from any Auxiliary Member or from one of the bartenders or at the door.

When: Sunday, March 22nd, 8 am to 12 noon

Where: Blue Island Eagles Hall, 2427 Grove St

Believe in Blue Island

By Alderman Tom Hawley

Fashion in Blue Island, the first 100 years

Retired Saks Fifth Avenue Fashion Director, Nena Ivon, will be back in Blue Island for the Blue Island Arts Alliance to talk about Blue Island fashion, the first 100 years. This is her fourth presentation for the BIAA and it's always an informative and interesting presentation. The event will be at the home of Tom Hawley and Tom Mantel. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door. For those interested, there will be a tour of the home (historic Heimbach House) following the presentation.

Refreshments will be served. All proceeds go to the Blue Island Arts Alliance who are busy planning another exciting year of Arts Events in Blue Island. The BIAA is giving a scholarship to a deserving Band student in the District 130 Band at their Spring Concert, thanks to money raised at this and other events throughout the year. The BIAA is a 501(c)3 organization.

Thank you for your support.

When: Sunday, March 22nd, 3 pm

Where: Historic Heimbach House

Yoga and Beer

This has become a popular event! Stop by the Rock Island Public House Sunday, March 22nd for one hour of yoga and a pint of beer. Beginners are encouraged to come. Bring your own mat. The cost is \$15 and it includes your first beer afterwards! It starts at 2 pm.

When: Sunday, March 22nd, 2 pm

Where: Rock Island Public House, 13328 Olde Western Ave

Bunco at the Eagles

Eagles Auxiliary will be hosting three fund raising Bunco Bashes on Sundays, February 22nd, March 29th and again April 26th. Doors open at noon and we will have a group of vendors here with items for sale. The cost is \$20.00 and that includes a light lunch. There will be a cash bar and raffles. Come out and join us. Sorry no outside food or drinks allowed.

When: Sunday, February 22nd, 12 noon

Where: Blue Island Eagles, 2427 Grove St.

Cooking Demonstration

The American Heart Association is having a cooking demonstration and taste testing on Friday, March 27th from 10:30 am to 11:30 am at MetroSouth Medical Center. The demonstration will be followed by a complimentary lunch. Space is limited to 40, so please RSVP at 708.489.7929. This is sponsored by MetroSouth Medical Center and the Blue Island Community Health Coalition.

When: Friday, March 27th, 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Where: MetroSouth Medical Center, 12935 S Gregory St, Mezzo. B & C (rear of Cafe Metro)

Southwest Symphony Concert

The next Southwest Symphony concert is Saturday, March 28th. It's a big program as we Herald Spring. Celebrate spring with song and Pictures (*Pictures at an Exhibition* by Mussorgsky/Ravel, that is). Also on the program, Pa-pa-pa from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, O Mio babbino caro from *Gianni Schicchi* by Puccini, Lipen Schweigen from Lehar's *The Merry Widow*, If Ever I Would Leave You from Lerner and Loewe's *Camelot*, Mozart's La ci darem la mono from *Don Giovanni*, *Spring Song* by Sibelius and Dvorak's *Te Deum*. The concert features the SSO, the Trinity Christian College Concert Choir, Kathryn Kamp, soprano and Robert Heitzinger, baritone. Tickets range from FREE for children under 12 to \$20 for Adults. If you are interested, I can get group rates. Email me and let me know to add you to the list. Nancy DiNovo and I play in the Symphony.

When: Saturday, March 28th, 7:30 pm

Where: Trinity Christian College, 6601 W College Dr, Palos Heights

Ongoing Events

Code Red

Please make sure you are registered with CodeRed. With this service, the City will be able to notify residents in case of emergency or for general information. This will help get information out to all residents quickly and efficiently. You may sign up your home phone, cell phone or even other people's phone numbers to receive the messages. If you have a parent or child who lives in Blue Island and you live out of town, you can put your number on their address and if something happens, you will also be notified. Notification can come in the form of a message or text. You can add any number of phone numbers, email addresses and choose if you want to receive general notifications in addition to emergency notifications. It's really a great system and will allow the City to choose areas as small as a side of a street. This past winter would have been useful with water mains breaking and even as recently as the bad weather that came through last weekend. They used the 911 database as an initial database, but if you want to add an email address or a cell number to your address, go here: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BFD966543882> and fill in the additional information. Thank you. Please encourage your neighbors and friends to also register. It's quick and easy to do.

If anyone is interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch Program, please email me and I will be happy to help get one going. Deputy Chief Cornell is willing to get as many of these started as people want, so contact me or your alderman or the Police Department if you are interested in starting one.

Blue Ribbons

Laura Rozga was recently over at her sister's house in Worth and noticed blue ribbons and lights long the streets and on the residents homes. She told her it was in support of the police who lately have been getting a bad rap. She believes that it started in Mt. Greenwood but was not sure. She is going to get her own ribbon to show her support our police department as well as all the others and invites everyone to do the same.

Blue Island Public Library...now mobile!

The Blue Island Public Library is now offering access to library materials to homebound readers. If you know someone who is unable to visit the Library because of illness, injury or a disability, please contact Reference Services Department for details by calling Sofia Aguilera at [708.385.1078 x 20](tel:708.385.1078).

Overnight Parking Ordinance

The Blue Island City Council passed an Ordinance restricting overnight parking on City streets. The Ordinance states that you cannot park your vehicle on any public street in Blue Island unless you possess a valid Blue Island city sticker between 2 am and 6 am. The only exceptions are: emergency vehicles, licensed caregivers and handicap persons. Any person that needs to park on the street or if you are having overnight guests who will be parking on the street, can call the Police Department at 385-1313 and let the dispatcher know the color, make, model and license plate as well as where the car will be parked so they do not receive a ticket. Cars parked within one block of Western Ave between 119th and 135th must have a sticker if parked there between 2:30 am and 5 am, Monday through Friday and 3:30 am and 5 am Saturday and Sunday mornings to accommodate the business' employees and customers. You may get Temporary Overnight Parking for a total of 7 overnight passes within a calendar month. If you want a full copy of the Ordinance, please email me and I can get you a copy.

Believe in Blue Island
By Alderman Tom Hawley

Register your Property

Because County Recorders are not authorized by law to validate legal claims made in recorded documents, scammers are filing forged deed transfers to steal property. Once recorded, these documents mean you no longer own your home, even if you have paid it off. The Cook County Recorder of Deeds has developed a way for you to register your property so that any time a document is recorded against your property, you will get an alert so you may be able to take quick, legal action. Directions on how to do this is in the attached pdf. You can do it online at CookRecorder.com or over the phone at [800.728.3858](tel:800.728.3858). You will need your PIN from your Real Estate Tax bill. Please let your friends and neighbors know about this and if you have an elderly relative or friend, please do this for them.

TOPS

Real people lose weight with TOPS.

- Weight loss success
- Caring support for each other
- Non-profit low cost program

Meetings are every Wednesday from 6 pm - 7 pm at First Lutheran Church located at 13165 Ann Street. For more information, call Peggy at [708-389-0921](tel:708-389-0921).

Rent a Packard

Have a wedding or a big event you want to show up to in style? Dan Colyer rents out his Packard Touring Sedan. It's a great car with plenty of room for the bride and groom! The car rents for \$200 per hour with a 3 hour minimum. Check it out on the web at: antique-classiclimos.com. For more information, call Dan Colyer at [708.207.3646](tel:708.207.3646).

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](tel:708.489.7927).

Blue Island Eagles

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! All bottled domestic beer: \$2.00, imported & specialty beer: \$2.50, Shots, Wine & Mixed Drinks: \$1.00 off regular price.

They also offer \$1 per game bowling and \$1 for a 12 oz. glass of beer Tuesdays through Thursdays from noon until close.

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!

Believe in Blue Island
By Alderman Tom Hawley

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](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.

At the end of their day of camaraderie and reminiscence, they come home to the sound of: "MAIL CALL!" They would like to insure that each veteran gets a packet of mail and they could use your help! They would love people of all ages to write their Honor Flight veterans to thank them for their service. This is a great activity for organizations and clubs, churches, libraries, retirement communities, schools and anyone who wants to play a part in honoring a veteran. Mail Call letters may be sent to:

Honor Flight Chicago
6688 Joliet Rd
Indian Head Park, IL 60525

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 Information

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!

District 218 Eisenhower Newsletter

The latest District 218 Digital Newsletter is out. It talks about the Speech Team, Student Council holiday party, the Cardinal Dance Team, the Key Club benefit and Principal for a Day. There are videos and pictures. A nice edition!

English version

<http://en.calameo.com/read/00140548671a82c9938ac>

Spanish version

<http://en.calameo.com/read/0014054863fc3adb7d5a9>

And check out this link about Eisenhower graduate Brandon Williams who plays for the Carolina Panthers. He's a second year player, a tight end, who mostly plays on special teams.

<http://www.panthers.com/team/roster/brandon-williams/eb9e9619-d2f6-47a9-a468-e9c9492d7ad5/>

Believe in Blue Island
By Alderman Tom Hawley

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. 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.

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. For information about the Tech Annex, Email Darin Thompson at dthompson@blueislandlibrary.org for more information.

--Tom Hawley

believeinblueisland@gmail.com
[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 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!
