

Believe in Blue Island
By Tom Hawley

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are doing well. It's been a busy few weeks. There's a lot coming up and happening soon, so take a look and, hopefully, you will find something you would like to go to.

The Arts Extravaganza was great! If you went, you saw a lot of art by a lot of talented kids, performances by more talented kids and a lot of proud parents. A very nice evening!

This week/weekend, you Food and Brew at Korbakes Liquors, take in *Footloose* at Eisenhower, you can celebrate Earth Day at Kickapoo Woods, go to the St. Walters Open House, attend the Beer, Brats and Bikes event, or go to the STArry Night fund raiser.

There are free seeds still available at the Library. Just stop by the front desk. There's a nice assortment of vegetables, flowers and herbs.

Then you can take those seeds over and plant them in one of the 6 open and amended raised beds at the Memorial Park Community Garden. You must sign up at the park and the cost is \$15.00 for the season.

The Blue Island Beer Company is open! If you're down on Olde Western Ave, check them out at 13357 Olde Western Ave! Beer is brewing in Blue Island for the first time since before Prohibition! Very exciting news and welcome to Blue Island! The taproom will be open Friday at Noon.

A reminder: Cathe Adamski, from Flowers by Cathe, son is very ill. He was found unresponsive in bed on March 5th and rushed to Palos Community Hospital. He was in a coma and was moved to Northwestern University Hospital for more tests. He is now at RML Specialty Hospital in Hinsdale for rehab. Her insurance has a 20% match and, as you can imagine, this is a huge burden. They have set up a fund to help her raise money. It's not been up for even a week yet, but she has raised over \$11,000. Initial bills are already eating away at this amount. If you can help or for more information, please visit: <http://de.gofund.me/q9tuak> Our thoughts and prayers go out to Cathe, Ryan and their family.

Also, registration for Ike Hike – proceeds again will benefit Blue Cap – has opened. It takes place on Saturday, April 25th at 8:30 a.m. register at: <http://www.ikehike.com/>. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Alicia Ramirez at Alicia.ramirez@chsd218.org or by calling [708.597.6300x 4540](tel:708.597.6300x4540). Thank you!

Please remember to send me any and all events you know that are happening in town or involve people from town. I'm always happy to include them.

Read to the Dogs!

The Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy's Read to the Dogs nights are back at the Blue Island Public Library. Bring your little readers to the Library and bring their favorite book to read to the dogs. They love any kind of story and they are multi-lingual (they are really brilliant, they understand all languages!). It runs every Thursday in April and begins at 7 pm. They usually have a pretty good turn out, so get there early to get your chance to read to the dogs!

When: Thursdays through April 30th, 7 pm

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St

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Sewing Classes

Class is for all levels and take place on Thursdays from 12 noon to 2 pm through April 30th. Beginners only must attend the first class on April 9th to learn the sewing machine parts and function. Intermediate learners will start on April 16th. Students will learn sewing machine skills, pattern cutting, and general clothes-making skills. For more information, contact Sonia Rodriguez at srodriguez@blueislandlibrary.org or by calling [708.388.1078 x 18](tel:708.388.1078)

When: Thursdays through April 30th, 12 noon to 2 pm

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St

Food and Brew

Stop on by Korbakes Liquors on the Second Friday of every month for their Food and Brew Festival from 6 pm to 8 pm. Taste some delicious beer and munch on some good food. The weather is supposed to be great, so check it out!

When: Friday, April 17th, 6 pm to 8 pm

Where: Korbakes Liquors, 12747 Western Ave

Footloose at DDE

The Theater Department at Eisenhower High School is having their Spring Musical this weekend. The shows are Friday night and Saturday night at 7:30 pm and Saturday afternoon at 2 pm in the Theater. Tickets are available at the door. These kids put their all into these shows and they are fun to see!

When: Friday and Saturday, April 17th and 18th at 7:30 pm, Saturday, April 18th at 2 pm

Where: Eisenhower High School, 12700 S Sacramento Ave

Celebrate Earth Day

Help with cleanup and habitat restoration while celebrating Earth Day with a variety of fun activities, nature hikes, games and more. Check it out at Kickapoo Woods! Sign up [here](#).

When: Saturday, April 18th, 9 am to 1 pm

Where: Kickapoo Woods, 14988 S Halsted, Riverdale

STArry Night Benefit

The Bungalow Chef, Mike Mech, has been cooking up a storm! There will be a feature story in *Who's Hungry Magazine?* On April 18th, he will join Chicago chefs Bill Kim of Belly Q., Giuseppe Tentori of GT Fish & Oyster and Cesar Pinda of Ciao Amore as they prepare an array of special dishes for chef Art Smith's annual STArry Night Benefit for St. Thomas Apostle School. The reception and silent auction begin at 6 pm, dinner and program begins at 7 pm. Tickets are \$100 per person. You must RSVP by April 10th if you would like to attend the event. Visit www.stapostleschool.com or call Cecily Fultz at [773.667.1142](tel:773.667.1142) for more information.

When: Wednesday, April 18th, 6 pm

Where: St. Thomas Apostle School, 5467 Woodlawn Ave

St. Walter School Open House

Are you looking for a Catholic School for your child to attend? St. Walter is having open houses for you to check them out. There is one Sunday, April 19 from 12 noon to 2 pm. They are also have a special open house and shadow hours on Thursday, April 30 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Parents/Guardians and Children are welcome. You must register for April 30 by calling by April 13th 773.445.8850. Check them out and see what they have to offer!

When: Sunday, April 19th, 12 noon to 2 pm

Where: St. Walters School, 11722 S Oakley, Chicago

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Beer, Brats and Bikes

Come on out, bring your bike and support the Cal Sag Trail! The Rock Island Public House is hosting this fund raiser for the Trail and will be having an Oskar Blues mini tap takeover. \$1 from each draft goes to the Friends of the Cal-Sag Trail. There will be free sausages while supplies last. The Cal-Sag Trail is coming to Blue Island. Help make it a reality.

When: Sunday, April 19th, 3 pm to 7 pm

Where: Rock Island Public House, 13328 Olde Western Ave

Frog Monitoring

Volunteers will take a short hike at dusk to listen for rare frogs making their mating calls. This is citizen science in action! A great activity for the young scientists! Meet at the parking lot gate, bring a flashlight and wear waterproof shoes.

When: Monday, April 20th, 7 pm to 8 pm

Where: Whistler Woods, 678 W 134th St, Riverdale

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, April 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](tel:708.203.7201).

When: Tuesday, April 21st, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm presentation

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

Art and Wine, a fine combination

Head on over to the Meadows Golf Club on Friday, April 24th for some creative fun! An art instructor will be giving you step-by-step instructions on how to create a masterpiece for you to hang in your home...or a museum! Taste some wine, have some good conversation and bring home a personalized creation painted by you! A great gift! The cost is \$40 per person. Call [708.385.1994](tel:708.385.1994) now to reserve your spot. Space is limited to 20 people.

When: Friday, April 24th, 6:30 pm

Where: Meadows Golf Club, 2802 W 123rd St

Spring Band Concert

Head on over to Eisenhower High School for the Spring Band Concert on Friday, April 24th at 7 pm. Come and hear these talented kids play a great concert!

When: Friday, April 24th, 7 pm

Where: Eisenhower High School, 12700 S Sacramento Ave

Kickapoo Volunteer Day

Come one, come all to the monthly Kickapoo volunteer day on Saturday, April 25th from 10 am to 1 pm. Volunteers are kicking off work to clear an overgrown prairie along the walking track. Free lunch.

When: Saturday, April 25th, 10 am to 1 pm

Where: Kickapoo Woods, 14498 S Halsted, Riverdale

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Ike Hike

The Annual Ike Hike benefitting Blue Cap will take place on Saturday, April 25th. This 5k and 1 Mile Walk is a USATF-certified course and begins on Sacramento Ave by the back entrance to the Eisenhower parking lot. Participants will proceed through beautiful, tree-lined streets of Blue Island before returning to Eisenhower behind the softball field and finishing on the Eisenhower track. Entry fees are \$10 to \$20 before April 23rd and \$20 to \$30 on race day. You can get a t-shirt for your participation. Register online at Ikehike.com. Come on out and see how you fare running against some of your favorite DDE teachers. Have little ones? Strollers and children's bikes are welcome!

When: Saturday, April 25th, 8:30 am

Where: Eisenhower High School, 12700 S Sacramento Ave

Firefighters Club Plant Sale

The Blue Island Firefighters Club is having a plant sale. They will be selling flats of flowers for \$12, spikes, vincas and geraniums for \$2 each and hanging baskets for \$15. All orders must be prepaid and are due by Saturday, April 25th. Order forms can be picked up and dropped off at Station #1 (Vermont St) or CARR home-garden-holiday (2357 York St). Pick-up will be Saturday, May 9th from 10 am to 1 pm in the York Street City Parking Lot. Proceeds from the sale will go toward the care and maintenance of "Old Bess."

When: Pre-orders due by Saturday, April 25th, pickup May 9th

Where: Forms: Fire Station #1, CARR's; pickup, York Street City Parking Lot

Arbor Day Tree Planting

A new tree is being planted in the parkway in front of Grace United Methodist Church in celebration of Arbor Day. Join Pastor Linny Hartzell, the Urban Forestry Board of Blue Island and Mayor Vargas on Saturday, April 25th at 11 am for an Arbor Day Proclamation and tree blessing. There will be light refreshments following in the Church's Fellowship Hall. Thank you to the Blue Island Public Works Department for planting the tree.

When: Saturday, April 25th, 11 am

Where: Grace United Methodist Church, 12739 S Maple Ave

Spring Luncheon Tea

The Blue Island Historical Society is having their Spring Luncheon Tea. It will be held at the BIHS/Albee House, 13018 Maple Avenue from 12 Noon - 2 pm. There is a donation of \$20.00 to attend and reservations are required. Call [708-371-8546](tel:708-371-8546) to make your reservation. In addition to delicious food and tea, we also have raffles with some nice prizes. We hope you can join us!

When: Saturday, April 25th, 12 noon to 2 pm

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

Spaghetti Dinner

Mission Covenant Church is having their Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, April 25th from 4 pm to 7 pm. Come on out for some delicious spaghetti with salad, bread and beverage. Desserts will be served and they will have some baked goods for sale as well. Tickets are available at the door or from any member of the church. Adults are \$8 and children under 12 are \$4. Truly a bargain! The serving sizes are HUGE!

When: Saturday, April 25th, 4 pm to 7 pm

Where: Mission Covenant Church, Greenwood and Collins

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Bunco at the Eagles

Eagles Auxiliary will be hosting a fund raising Bunco Bashes on Sunday, April 26th. Doors open at noon and we will have 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, April 26th, 12 noon

Where: Blue Island Eagles, 2427 Grove St.

Blue Island Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting

The annual membership meeting of the Blue Island Historical Society will be at 1 pm at the BIHS/Albee House, 13018 Maple Avenue. All Historical Society members are encouraged to attend. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining. The nominating committee will be accepting nominations for 2 board member positions. If you are a BIHS member and would like to make a nomination, contact Betty Nagel at [708-371-8546](tel:708-371-8546). We are also pleased to have Joe Gatrell returning as our guest speaker. He should have some more very informative things to share with us!

When: Sunday, April 26th, 1 pm

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

Yoga and Beer

This has become a popular event! Stop by the Rock Island Public House Sunday, April 26th 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, April 26th, 2 pm

Where: Rock Island Public House, 13328 Olde Western Ave

Kentucky Derby Event at The Meadows

Celebrate the 141st 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 2nd, 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

The BIG Event

It's the annual BIG Event at 115 Bourbon Street. Join your favorite Firefighters as they have their Cook Off and raise funds for Sertoma. This is always a fun event and you can support Ken Dompeling and Joe DiNovo as they start their competition season at this event. Live music will be performed by Audiomatic, there's hourly split-the-pot raffles, BIG Raffle (Grand Prize is \$10,000), games and crafts for Kids. It's fun for the whole family! Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids.

When: Saturday, May 2nd, 5 pm to 9 pm

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

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Walk, Run or Roll

The South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) is having their 2015 Walk, Run or Roll 1/2 Mile Race for Individuals with Special Needs on Sunday, May 3rd. The event begins at 7:45 am and takes place in Palos Heights with the start at their City Hall at Rt. 83 and 76th Ave. To register or more information, visit www.swsra.com.

When: Sunday, May 3rd, 7:45 am

Where: Palos Heights City Hall, Route 83 and 76th Ave.

Audio Recording Workshops

Think you may want to be a recording engineer some day? Want to record your band or yourself? On the first Tuesday of every month, you can learn about all things related to audio recording including microphone techniques, midi signals, instrument recording, vocal effects and mastering using ProTools. It happens in the lower level Tech Annex and there is a maximum of 10 attendees. Email dthompson@blueislandlibrary.org for more information.

When: Tuesday, May 5th, 10 am to 12 noon

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St

First Tuesday Series at the Library - The Calumet Landscape

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 the Calumet Landscape. How did backyard gullies, hills or wetlands form? Naturalist, John Elliott, surveys clues to our history found in our modern landscape. For more information, contact Chris Weber, Friends of the Forest Preserves, at [773.746.5223](tel:773.746.5223) or chris@fotfp.org.

When: Tuesday, May 5th, 7 pm

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St

Book-o-the-Month Club

The Blue Island Public Library has a Book Club that meets on the first Tuesday of each month. New "Bookies" are always welcome! For more information, contact Alicia Diaz at adiaz@blueislandlibrary.org or by calling [708.388.1078](tel:708.388.1078) x 26.

When: Tuesday, May 5th, 7 pm to 8:45 pm

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York St

Spring Choir Concert

The Eisenhower Spring Choir Concert is Wednesday, May 6th at 7 pm in the Theater. Come and hear this talented group of kids perform their final concert of the year.

When: Wednesday, May 6th, 7 pm

Where: Eisenhower High School, 12700 S Sacramento Ave

Grace United Methodist Flower Sale

Grace United Methodist Church is having their annual flower and plant sale on Saturday, May 9th from 8 am to 3 pm. Get there early for best selection! Plants are from Ted's Greenhouse. Big, healthy hanging baskets, annual flats, perennials, herbs, tomato plants and much more! Perfect timing for Mother's Day gift giving! A representative from Ted's Greenhouse will be available to answer your gardening questions. For more information, call [708.388.5340](tel:708.388.5340).

When: Saturday, May 9th, 8 am to 3 pm

Where: Grace United Methodist Church, 12739 Maple Ave

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Friends of the Rock Island

The Friends of the Rock Island are having their 21st Semi-Annual Chicagoland Meeting on Saturday, May 9th, from 6:30 pm to 9 pm at Grace United Methodist Church in the lower level. There will be a "Mini" Swap Meet and Display at 6:30. Bring items you want to trade, sell or show. There are a limited number of tables and there is a limit of one per dealer. You must pre-register for a table by emailing Jim Suhs at jamesuhs@sbcglobal.net or calling him at [815.588.1504](tel:815.588.1504). At 7:30, the presentations will begin. Phil Weibler will present photos and talk about the early years of Rock Island Cabooses and Paul Hunnell will show many slides of them as they appeared later on.

When: Saturday, May 9th, 6:30 pm to 9 pm

Where: Grace United Methodist Church, 12739 Maple Ave

Southwest Symphony Orchestra Concert

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra will be having their last concert of the season on Saturday, May 9th at 7:30 pm. They will be performing a host of songs made famous by Frank Sinatra including *I've Got You Under My Skin*, *My Way*, *The Way You Look Tonight* and much more. Tom Tiratto will be singing the songs with the SSO accompanying. Also on the program is the winner of the Youth Concerto Competition who will be performing the 1st Movement of the Weber Clarinet Concerto and Gershwin's *American in Paris*. There's something for everyone! They will also be raffling off a trip to Las Vegas after intermission. If you would like to go, I am getting group tickets and can include you in the group. Tickets are \$12 as part of the group, just email me.

When: Saturday, May 9th, 7:30 pm

Where: Ozinga Chapel, 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.

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Oak Street Health

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 oakstreethhealth.com for more information.

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.

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).

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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

They are having their Queen of Hearts 50/50 Progressive Raffle every Tuesday at 9 pm. The pot is growing fast! Tickets are on sale all week long. If you're the lucky winner, you pick a card and you win the prize under that card. Pick the Queen of Hearts and you win the pot! Good Luck!

There's open bowling Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon until close. Only \$1.00 per games. Thursday nights, they rock the house with JJ's Roadhouse DJ's starting at 6 pm. They have the music you want to hear. They even have everything with them for karaoke if you want to sing along! Come on out for the fun!

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.

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!

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](tel:708-597-2000) ext. 5615 to reserve.

Where: MetroSouth Medical Center-Main Lobby, 12935 S. Gregory St., Blue Island

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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

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!

Spotlight on Ben Aguilar

Check out this article by Donna Vickroy who profiled Eisenhower senior, Ben Aguilar, and his inspiring story in the Daily Southtown. He speaks eloquently about the roles that art, Delta, and Eisenhower have played in his growth. The story also features DDE art teacher Jim Hart, Delta Principal Joe Fowler and Mother McAuley visual arts chair Gordon Davis, one of the judges from the MVCC High School Art Exhibit. Here's some highlights of Ben's great year: he won Best of Show out of more than 1,500 submissions at the MVCC High School Art Exhibit last month, he has been a member of the Express show choir which won Grand Champion at the Manteno Main Event Show Choir competition the past two years and he is first chair Violin in the String Orchestra. He will be performing at the Arts Extravaganza this Saturday (see below for more information). For the full article, go here:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/lifestyles/ct-sta-vickroy-art-student-st-0405-20150403-story.html>

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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By Tom Hawley

Donate to The Forum

Do you pick up the Forum at one of the many locations around town? Maybe you have a subscription and it is mailed to you monthly. Do you like to read the news about what's going on in town? Maybe you like the City Council wrap ups or to find out whose birthday is coming up. A subscription to the paper is \$36 per year. They are funded through advertising and donations. The economy has taken its toll and costs continue to rise. There is a small staff that works on the paper and they are paid peanuts. Delivery to every home in town was discontinued a number of years ago in an effort to save costs. It was expensive and printing the paper is even more. A donation to The Forum would help them a lot! If you are able, please consider a donation. No amount is too small (or too big!). Thanks!

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/>

Comcast Sportsnet Chicago profiled Eisenhower and Northwestern University graduate, Torri 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

Did you see the articles in the Southtown about Justin Antos being named the Blue Island Man of the Year and the National Honor Society distributing 450+ books at Paul Revere Intermediate? Two great, positive articles about Blue Island. Check them out.

Justin Antos and his Honors Performance Band students got the cover of the local news section in the Daily Southtown.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/lifestyles/ct-stn-cover-st-0308-20150304-story.html>

The Daily Southtown features NHS and their book drive/Seuss Day project for D130 students and interviews Jen Healy and Jermaine Durning and students Ilse Esparza and Jazmin Martinez.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/lifestyles/ct-sta-revere-seuss-day-st-0309-20150308-story.html>

Believe in Blue Island
By 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).

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

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!
