

A Note From our Mayor Domingo Vargas...

Help make Blue Island great - Participate in our Community Survey

I've always been proud of the community spirit displayed by the residents of Blue Island. It makes me proud to call this community my home and even more proud that you asked me to serve you as Mayor. Public service is about prioritizing and delivering programs and services that make our community better.

Now I want to ask for your help in setting some of the future priorities of our city by taking a new community wide survey we are sending out this month. The goal of the survey is to find out what your priorities are, which areas of city government are working for you and which areas need improvement. I urge everyone to take a few minutes to fill it out honestly and send it back to city hall or drop it by in person during normal business hours. Your opinions matter and your answers will help guide our decisions and priorities in the future.

Yours Truly,

New life planted in our tree city



In honor of Arbor Day the city of Blue Island added more trees in the community to maintain its tree city title and celebrate new life. With the help of public works crews, Mayor Domingo Vargas alongside other city officials and local students planted four non-fruit bearing crab trees outside of the newly acquired Blue Island Recreation Center. The gesture was a sign of "new life for the future generations to come," said Mayor Vargas. Students from the nearby Gordon Elementary School were invited to help plant the trees and each took turns filling the hole. Mayor Vargas declared the day "one of the first steps towards the complete make-over the rec center will undergo." Recreation Center Executive Director Bob Jackson and Ward 4 Alderwoman Candace Carr joined the Mayor to show their support of the city's green efforts.



On Saturday, April 25, public works crews also planted a Burr Oak tree at Grace United Methodist Church to continue its commitment to adding trees to the community. Many Blue Island citizens joined the mayor and Pastor Lenny Hartzell to bless the newest addition to the church.

Blue Island became a tree city in 2010 and has maintained the Tree City USA designation for environmental stewardship commitments since. The Arbor Day foundation's mission is to inspire, nurture and celebrate trees to create a greener planet, which Blue Island is doing. Since 1972, this foundation has been awarding cities around the United States that have met four core standards. In order to qualify as a tree city needs to have a department that works to maintain and plant trees, a tree care ordinance, an urban forestry program and an Arbor Day proclamation.

First Brewery Since Prohibition

If you haven't seen the newest brew on tap around Blue Island, head over to Blue Island Beer Company and see the work Alan Cromwell and Bryan Shimkos have created. After working for more than a year to construct an old warehouse into a taproom, they have achieved their dream of bringing a brewery with a taproom to the South Side. They opened their doors to the public in April and the public has responded in droves with a mix of residents and beer enthusiasts excited to see a new brewery. The taproom currently has four brews on tap with space to serve nine more. Shimkos and Cromwell said their brews are classic styles with the new American taste and said they will always have a variety of different brews on tap. When first timers walk in, Cromwell said he asks what kind of beer they usually drink to find the perfect brew for them, so head to the newest brewery at 13357 Olde Western Ave., and taste what its all about or visit www.blueislandbeerco.com for more information.



May 2015 Events

- 1- Dwight D. Eisenhower Prom
- 5- Historical Society Board Meeting 7pm
- 8- Korbakes Liquors Food & Brew 6-8pm
- 9- Chicago River Clean up 9-11am
- Southwest Symphony Orchestra 7:30p

- 12- City Council Meeting 7pm
- 16- Grand Opening of Blue Island Beer Co.
- 21- Dwight D. Eisenhower Graduation
Fit for Life
- 26- City Council Meeting 7pm
- 27- Historical Society Sweet Candy History 10:30 am
- 28- District 130 Graduation