

Believe in Blue Island
By Alderman Tom Hawley
June 13, 2014

Hello Everyone,

After a rainy week, it looks like we're going to have a decent weekend. Hope you enjoy it!

There was a glitch on the water bills this month. The City switched to a new billing system this month and they are not formatted correctly. The "Total Current Charges" box reflects ONLY the water charge and the large amount included in the "Penalty Charges" is NOT a penalty, it's your actual current amount owed which includes sewer and trash charges. You should have received Code Red notification on this. If you have not, please see below how to sign up so that you may receive them!

Last weekend, there was so much going on. We started at the Pancake Breakfast for the Veterans Day Parade. We headed over to the Cal-Sag Trail Groundbreaking...what a great day! The Trail is happening! Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced a grant of \$1.2 Million to go to help with the match for the eastern part of the Trail (the part Blue Island is the lead for) and that will be breaking ground next year. The Bethel Pentecostal Church Kid-Cop Day was a lot of fun and Korbakes Wine Pairing and BBQ must have been a huge success because they were out of food by the time we got there! It was a jam packed day in Blue Island. And on Sunday, the Blue Island Open Streets event was a great event! If you missed this one, look for information on the next one and make sure you go. It was great fun!

At the last City Council meeting, Mayor Vargas announced plans for the 4th of July weekend. He has talked with CSX and they are sponsoring a fireworks display at Eisenhower High School on Thursday night, July 3rd. Start your holiday celebration the night before. Entry is free and there will be music and fireworks. Parking at Burr Oak Bowl is \$5 and VIP parking at Eisenhower is \$20. It won't be as big as they were in the past, but there will be fireworks. If you would like to make a donation toward the cost of the fireworks, send a check made out to *City of Blue Island* with a memo of 3rd of July Fireworks to Mayor Vargas, City of Blue Island, 13051 S. Greenwood Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406. Thanks!

Then, on the 4th of July, everyone is welcome to join the Blue Island Community Parade. Ride your bike, walk, or cartwheel your way down the parade route. The parade starts in front of Paul Revere Intermediate School, 12331 Gregory Street at 10:30 am. We'll wind our way through the City and end up MetroSouth Pavilion Park at York and Western where we'll have our first of five TGIF Picnics. There will be food available for purchase and music. The hours for TGIFs are 11 am to 2 pm. We hope you'll join us!

Registration is now open for the 2014-2015 school year at St. Benedicts. Tours of the school are available upon request and are open to students from Preschool through 8th Grade. They have talented and gifted programs and a host of activities available including before and after care, tutoring and daily hot lunches. Register before August 1st and you can save 50% with the attached coupon.

The Francisco Ave Bridge is scheduled to be closed for repairs and maintenance beginning June 23rd. It is scheduled to be closed for 60 days. They will be doing joint repair, concrete removal, deck patching, structural steel repair and painting.

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Know someone looking to rent a cute house in Blue Island? Send an email to: colleenwalsh02@yahoo.com for more information and to set up tour.

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.

Food and Brew

Come on out to Korbakes every 2nd Friday for Food and Brew! This month, they are featuring small batch whiskey tasting and Father's Day gifts. Plus sample some delicious food from the Windy City Patty Wagon.

When: Friday, June 13, 6 pm to 8 pm

Where: Korbakes Liquors, 12747 S Western Ave

Bike Club Fridays!

Rides are every Friday night for kids/families from 4:30 pm until about 7 pm. There are some Saturday and Sunday rides planned for the summer. The Saturday rides are faster and farther, for more experienced cyclists. Need more info? Our website is www.bibc.us.

The bike club has a dream. We want to ride our bikes to the Indiana Dunes, camp out, then spend the next day playing in Lake Michigan and doing some light hiking. The route is 47 miles, mostly by trail. There are a lot of logistics to make this happen. If anyone is interested in chaperoning, providing car support for the return trip, or financially aiding the venture, please contact Jane Healy at repto@aol.com. We are hoping to do this in August, before school is back in session and are interested in a MID WEEK outing (although we aren't locked in to doing it then).

When: Fridays, 4:30 pm to 7 pm

Where: Meet at 121st at the Kiddie Korral Park, look for orange traffic cones in the street

MVCC Open House

Come on over to the Blue Island campus of MVCC to learn about programs and services offered by MVCC. They'll talk about financial aid, how to get started and tour the building. There will be refreshments and door prizes. For more information, call [708.974.5667](tel:708.974.5667).

When: Saturday, June 14th, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Where: MVCC Blue Island Campus, 12940 S Western

Cal-Sag Graveyard Blues Tour

Back by popular demand, the infamous Graveyard Bike Tour is happening again. Join Blues artist and historian Harmonica Neil as he tells stories and shares the music of artists such as Muddy Waters, Hound Dog Taylor, Big Walter, Jimmy Reed and many others who have been laid to rest in Alsip's historic cemeteries. Online registration is \$20. Space is limited. So register today here: <http://calsagtrail.org/FOCST/event/cal-sag-graveyard-blues-tour/> On site/day of registration is \$25. Riders with cars and one or two bikes should try to park on Komensky Ave behind the library off of 118th St. Since spaces in the library lot are limited, they are being 'reserved' for vans and SUVs with 3 or more bikes and riders.

When: Saturday, June 14th, 10am

Where: Start at Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library, 11960 S Pulaski, Alsip

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Free Kayaking

The City of Blue Island, partnering with Openlands, will offer free Kayaking at the Cook County Forest Preserve's Beaubien Woods Celebration thanks to an Illinois Coastal Grant we received from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. It's a free family event sponsored in partnership with Fishin' Buddies and the Calumet Stewardship Initiative. Fish, explore, build with natural materials, hike and more! Bring the whole family!

When: Saturday, June 14th, 11 am to 4 pm

Where: Beaubien Woods, 1 W Doty Ave S, Chicago (exit the Bishop Ford Expressway at the Beaubien Woods exit)

Bean Bag Blind Draw Tourney

The Blue Island Park District and Double Play Saloon is having their 4th Annual Bean Bag Blind Draw Tourney. It happens rain or shine at the Memorial Park Pavilion. Registration is at the door from 3 pm to 4 pm. Entry fee is \$12. It's a double elimination tournament. Refreshments will be served and it's for adults 21 and over!

When: Saturday, June 14th, 3 pm

Where: Memorial Park Pavilion, 12804 Highland Ave

Cruise Night!

Cruise Night is back on Monday nights! They run from 5 pm to 8:30 pm. This week, it is at York and Western Ave. So, if you have a classic or otherwise cool car you want to show off, come on out and check it out on Monday. If you like to look at classic and cool cars, go to York and Western! Get something to eat and/or drink at any one of the many restaurants and bars and CARR home-garden-holiday is even staying open late to be part of the festivities. They have a sale going on, so stop in there, too! So many great places to choose from!

When: Monday, June 9th, 5 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: MetroSouth Park, York and Western

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, June 17th is the next one at 7 pm at the Country House Restaurant, 5400 W. 127th St in Alsip. Greg Borchard from the University of Nevada will discuss his book *Lincoln and Horace Greeley* and be available to sign copies. 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, June 17th, 6 pm dinner, 7 pm presentation

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

Black Jack Logan: the Man, the Legend, the Grant Park Statue!

Join storyteller and author, Brian Fox Ellis, for the intriguing story of a man who had many public faces. Logan was Grant's favorite Commander; a powerful Illinois Senator; the founder of Memorial Day; Twain's favorite speaker; a Vice Presidential candidate; and a flip-flopper! He opposed Lincoln before supporting him and advocated racism before supporting Negro rights! Logan's also the subject of the iconic Grant Park statue those hippies were so fond of in 1968! This is presented by the Blue Island Public Library and the Blue Island Historical Society. This is

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Black Jack Logan: the Man, the Legend, the Grant Park Statue! (continued)

A ticketed event, get your FREE tickets at the Library Main Desk (2433 York St).

For more information, call Dan Carroll at [708.388.1078 x30](tel:708.388.1078).

When: Tuesday, June 17th, 7 pm

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

Grilling with Wine

Bill Fahrenwald's relative, Woody Rogers, will be hosting three grilling with wine classes this summer at the Beverly Arts Center. Each will feature a specific style of food on the grill and offer wines to match. The June session will feature three seafood recipes for shrimp, salmon and tuna. July's menu is chicken, pork and turkey. August Finishes big with burgers, sausages and steak. They'll talk wine, food and travels and try to answer whatever questions you may have in a very casual atmosphere. Classes are \$35 per person and bring three wine glasses per person. To register, go to BeverlyArtCenter.org and click on Education in the top banner. At the bottom of the top gray box, you'll see "Summer Grilling," click and sign up!

When: Thursdays, June 19th, July 17th, and August 14th, 7 pm to 9 pm

Where: Beverly Arts Center, 111th and Western, Beverly Hills, Chicago

Summer Story Time at the Library

"Opening Day" for Mrs. Rodriguez's Special Summer Story Time is set for 11:30 am Thursday, June 19th and will feature a special visit from Southpaw, the official mascot of the Chicago White Sox! The stories, games, crafts and other fun activities with Mrs. Rodriguez will continue on Thursdays throughout the summer at 11:30 am. For more information, call Mrs. Rodriguez at [708.388.1078 x 18](tel:708.388.1078).

When: Thursdays beginning June 19th at 11:30 am

Where: Blue Island Public Library, 2433 York 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. Enjoy a day of neighbors, deals and treasure hunts! This is the 8th Annual Yard Sale on the Hill. Most of the homes are between 127th St and Vermont St and Western Ave and Highland Square. There will be maps with addresses of all of the participants available at each location. So, ask for one at your first stop. There will be signs with balloons in front of participating homes. Remember, the early bird gets the worm! Shop early for the best selection...but if you're looking for deals, shop later in the day!

When: Saturday, June 21st, 8 am to 3 pm

Where: 127th to Vermont between Western and Highland

Drivin' the Dixie

If you enjoy vintage cars, come on out to MetroSouth parking lot on Saturday, June 21st from 8 am to 10 am and check out the starting point for the annual Drivin' the Dixie! There will be more than 100 cars including Model A Fords, mint muscle cars from the 60s and 70s and more! They start here in Blue Island and travel south to Momence on the historic Dixie Highway.

When: Saturday, June 21st, 8 am to 10 am

Where: MetroSouth parking lots, Western and High St

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Heal the River

Join Rev. Rod Reinhart from St. Joseph and St. Aidan's Episcopal Church for a day for all environmental activists to speak out together beside the beautiful Cal-Sag Waterfall in Blue Island. They will celebrate an inter religious and highly participatory ritual of spiritual cleansing and renewal for the water, land and air of our planet. They will pray that all humanity will find the spiritual strength to reverse the disastrous impact of industrial pollution, global warming and climate change. With drumming, blessings, holy water and prayer, they will speak out and take action to spiritually heal and protect our natural world.

When: Sunday, June 22nd, 4 pm

Where: Blue Island Waterfall, Park in Metra lot down on Fulton St

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 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](tel:708.396.0708) or [708.439.9103](tel:708.439.9103).

When: Saturday, June 28th, 6:05 pm

Where: Standard Bank Stadium, 14011 S Kenton Ave, Crestwood

Ongoing Events

Protect your stuff

On a serious and, unfortunately, not so good note: There have been some thefts from autos in town. Thieves are entering unlocked vehicles and stealing change and anything else that is not locked down. Please park your cars in well-lit areas and lock the doors! They don't seem to be damaging the cars to get in locked ones, just checking cars and if they are unlocked, they take what they can get. This goes for trucks with tools in them. Please make sure they are locked and please make sure your garages are secure. While overall Blue Island is safe, you still want to be sure you have protected your belongings!

Also, there continues to be a rash of catalytic converter thefts around town. Please be vigilant and report strange, suspicious or unknown vehicles or people hanging around. If you notice anything that doesn't quite look right (an unknown person coming out from under your neighbor's car, maybe), please call 911 right away. Please get a description and make note of what direction they were moving. It would be great to catch these people.

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Protect your stuff (continued)

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.

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.

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).

Keep up to date with the Park District

From Josh Tate at the Park District: The Park District is also actively working to increase their digital and online presence to expedite information delivery and communicate with residents as well. You can sign up for Email, Facebook and Twitter notifications. They want to encourage residents to visit the Park's website and sign up for our email distribution list to be kept directly informed of our programming and upcoming events. There are lots of great things in the pipeline and want to make sure you're receiving the information as quickly as they can get it out. It literally takes about two minutes. Please spread the word, join the distribution list and look for them on Facebook and Twitter!

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Keep up to date with the Park District (continued)

Email Signup - <http://blueislandparks.org/registration-information/email-sign-up>

Twitter - @BlueIslandParks

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/blueisland.parkdistrict>

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

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 at www.salvationarmyblueisland.org or contact them at [708.332.0100](tel:708.332.0100).

Where: Salvation Army, 2900 W. 127th St.

Salvation Army programs

Check out the Salvation Army for ongoing programs. They have Senior Lunch-in, Food Pantry, Fitness and Gym, After School Programs, Character Building Classes for youth, Music Lessons, Counseling, Computer Classes and rentals. For more information, visit them at www.salvationarmyblueisland.org or call them at [708.332.0100](tel:708.332.0100).

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!

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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>

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

Blue Island Public Works accepting e-waste items! □

Melissa Fuller from the City of Blue Island Public Works Department has sent this updated information about e-waste recycling.

Blue Island Public Works is proud to announce that we have partnered up with the Vet Tech Project for E-waste recycling! E-waste is considered as ANYTHING that has a cord attached. From computers and radios to hair dryers and old chargers! We now also accept old household batteries, DVDs, & CDs. All E-waste can either be dropped off at the Public Works Facility at 3153 Wireton Rd, or call Melissa for a special pick up. There is no charge for collection, and all items go to a GREAT cause. The Vet Tech Project provides technology education to American Military Veterans seeking to develop job skills in this field. The project recycles the unwanted E-waste by rehabbing them for charity. For more info or questions on any other recycling, please call Melissa at Public Works [708-597-8604](tel:708-597-8604), Monday through Friday, 7am to 3:30pm.

Do you have other things to recycle, old paint or other items? Melissa's MOST FAVORITE recycling website in the world is www.Earth911.com. When you go there, click on the "find a recycling center" tab then you can enter any type of material you want to recycle, type in your zip code and it will give you a list of the nearest places to accept them. How cool is that??

If you are looking for a place to bring all of your paper, find the District 130 paper dumpsters. They are all over!

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Take a healthy heart and circulation exam □

MetroSouth Medical Center is offering a special exam (a \$250 value) for only \$45. It includes an EKG-monitored exercise test, blood cholesterol, triglycerides and blood sugar level, blood pressure, body mass index, cardiac risk factor analysis, and an ankle brachial index test.

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

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

Other News

District 218 Eisenhower Newsletter

The most recent one talks about student achievements, Arts Extravaganza, JROTC marksmanship contest, AP English Socratic Seminar, Raku workshop, Ike Hike, Spring Play, the Culinary Team competing at MVCC and a Bulldog in Cardinal Red. It's pretty cool, lots of videos.

English version: <http://en.calameo.com/read/001405486d1f050ebeba0>

Spanish version: <http://en.calameo.com/read/001405486b39adfe429f2>

2014 Arts Extravaganza: History of District 218

Written and performed by 9 students (3 from each of the schools in the district), this humorous and informative, slightly revised, 'interpretation' of the history of District 218 is worth watching. They worked on it around 12 hours and it's really quite good! The three students from Eisenhower are: Renee Haskins, Lena Smith and Rafael Wilson. If you haven't been to one before, it's definitely worth going to! Karen Burmeister was the chair of the event and it was, as always, a great event showcasing some of the great things happening at the high schools and their talented students. The Eisenhower kids always deliver strong and wonderful performances and make us all proud!

http://www.ihigh.com/astrotv/video_925740.html

Student Writing Blog

District 218 has started a blog for the district that features their best student writing. The current post features an essay by Eisenhower Senior and Blue Island resident, Lauren Duffy (also an amazingly talented singer). With each post, the teacher who chooses the piece explains what makes it exception. Mike Chitkowski says: "It's thesis driven; this essay uses textual evidence from multiple sources to bolster opinions and assertions; the writing expresses a higher level understanding of a professional piece of literature. In writing terms, this essay exemplifies each stage of the writing process completed to a mastery level: planning, revising, and publishing. Receiving these types of literary analysis pieces from students makes teaching a novel in class a worthwhile experience." Check it out

here: <http://newpostmedia.wordpress.com/2014/05/05/the-green-mile-an-american-classic/>

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.

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Spend it in Blue Island! (continued)

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](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.

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!

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!

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Trace your family roots (continued)

With the relationship of Blue Island and many of the founding families, this could be a great starting point for researching your family tree! Home address, funeral information, marriage, birth dates, date of death and next of kin information are often discovered in these searches. Just contact the First Lutheran Cemetery office, at [708-388-3377](tel:708-388-3377), stop by the office, at 4135 W.127th St. or you can find them on Facebook.

The Blue Island Historical Society

Please consider a donation the Historical Society. They really do a wonderful job preserving the history of Blue Island. Any amount will be helpful. If you are not a member, please consider joining. You can join for life for a whole family very reasonably.

Blue Island Public Library

There's lots going on at the Library--for adults, kids and anyone in between! Check it out--at the Blue Island Public Library! Library hours are: Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 9 pm; Friday and Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm September through May. For information about the Tech Annex, Email Darin Thompson at dthompson@blueislandlibrary.org for more information.

Are you up to date with BITV?

There's a lot online put up by BITV, Channel 4. If you would like a list of links for tons of interesting shows and events, please email me and I will get you one. There's something for everyone....history, food, health care, parades, Eisenhower stories and more!

--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!
