



ELGIN AREA CHAMBER

# CLICK & CONNECT >>>

December 2025

## 6th Annual Elgin Calendar is Here!



Don't miss out on the best way to celebrate your hometown! The highly-anticipated **Mode De Vie Studio's** 6th Annual Elgin Calendar is fresh off the press and ready to brighten your year.

**Own a Piece of Elgin:** Featuring Carolyn buhrow's stunning, locally-focused photography.

**The Perfect Gift:** Makes an absolutely fantastic gift for current residents, new neighbors, or anyone missing the charm of their hometown.

**Price:** Just \$25 each!

**Order Today!**

**Give the Gift of Home**

## Meet EAC Influencer Donna Besler



Donna, Vice President of Business Development for Prairie Community Bank, is currently the Chair of the EAC Influencer Committee. Donna is one of the friendly faces and enthusiastic voices of the Elgin Area Chamber. She is actively engaged in the mission to build a stronger, more vibrant local economy by connecting businesses, welcoming new members, and celebrating success stories. Her deep involvement in this

committee means she knows all about the chamber, its operations, its benefits, and the best ways for members to engage and find value in their membership. She's a true champion of the organization.

**If you have EAC Influencer Committee questions or would like assistance with networking and maximizing your engagement at a chamber event, be sure to look for Donna Besler!** She is an expert connector and a warm, welcoming resource ready to help you navigate the chamber and maximize your membership experience. [Learn More](#)

## Downtown Elgin Hotel

Plans to convert an historic downtown building into a 26-room, \$4.3 million boutique hotel will be partially funded with Elgin TIF funds. The Elgin House would include a small café on the ground floor at its 53-63 Douglas Ave. location, according to plans submitted by Chicago Realty Ventures Inc., which purchased the McBride Building in October 2024 from Cuming Holdings.

The company is working with Atira Hotels, which will be a co-owner, to transform the top two floors into hotel rooms. Construction is expected to take about 14 months. Once completed, The Elgin House's nightly rates would be \$132 in the first year of operations. The hotel will have 15 employees, with the second floor having 12 rooms and the third floor with 14 rooms. [Read More](#)





**75th Anniversary  
Radio Station  
Open House**

**Dec. 9, 2025  
3:30-6 p.m.**

**U-46.org/WEPS  
88.9 FM**

Located inside:  
46 S. Gifford St.  
Elgin, IL 60120  
Enter through Door 15

Join us for a rare look  
inside U-46's FM radio  
station, WEPS, to learn  
about the history, impact,  
and current operations.



## Elgin's "Letters to Santa" Mailbox

Imagine the delight of a child receiving a special delivery from the North Pole — a place brimming with magic, wonder and the spirit of giving.

The city of Elgin invites children and their families to experience that joy through Letters to Santa, a cherished local tradition now in its second year, which transforms heartfelt wishes into real holiday memories.

From now until Dec. 12, children can drop off their letters to Santa in the festive red mailbox located outside the Elgin Area Chamber's office, 31 S. Grove Avenue, to receive a special reply from Santa himself. Just place a sealed envelope with a legible name and return address in the mailbox — no stamp needed.

Parents are encouraged to assist with writing the return address so Santa doesn't miss anyone.

The mailbox will remain open through Dec. 12, so be sure to send your letters before Santa sets off on his worldwide adventure!

For more information, please contact marketing specialist, Heather Moore, at [heather.moore@elginil.gov](mailto:heather.moore@elginil.gov), or visit [elginil.gov](http://elginil.gov)

**HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE**

*Spreading Joy,  
One Toy at a Time*

**Sponsored by:**  
State Representative  
Anna Moeller

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17 THRU FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025**

We are collaborating with **Centro de Informacion** to collect new, unwrapped gifts for children in need.

**Drop Off Locations:**

**Carpentersville Fire Station No. 93**  
5000 Sleepy Hollow Rd., Carpentersville  
Monday - Friday, Sat - Sunday 8am - 8pm

**Taylor Family YMCA**  
50 N. McLean Boulevard, Elgin  
Monday - Friday 6am - 7pm, Sat - Sun 7am - Noon

**BMO Harris Bank**  
94 J F Kennedy Memorial Dr, Carpentersville  
Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm, Sat 9am - Noon

**Streamwood Community Center**  
777 S. Bartlett Road, Streamwood  
Monday - Friday 5pm - 10pm, Sat - Sun 9am - 5pm

**Rep. Anna Moeller District 43 Office**  
164 Division St, Elgin  
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

**Wish List:**

- Barbies
- Lego sets and building toys
- Soccer balls and Basketballs
- Baby dolls and strollers
- Hot Wheels and Monster Trucks
- Board games and Puzzles
- Gift Cards
  - for clothes, hoodies, clothes, makeup
- Kitchen Toy Sets
- Remote Control Cars/Toys
- Art Sets (Jewelry, Painting, Building)
- Sensory Toys
- Skateboards and Scooters

For more information contact Representative Anna Moeller at: (847) 841-7130 or StateRepMoeller@gmail.com





Dig in to a stack of flapjacks with Old Saint Nick himself! Bring along your own little elves and experience the magic of Main Event.

**Dec 14 from 11am to 2pm**

Grab a ticket to unwrap an exclusive photo op, pancake breakfast, cookie decorating contest, very merry lineup of festive activities, and more — including 2 hours of All You Can Play Activities, Letters to Santa craft station and a 1-hour Fun Card! Don't delay, book your spot on the sleigh today. [CLICK HERE to RSVP for Pancakes at the North Pole Event!](#)

## Get your festive sweet treats in time for the holidays!

[Christmas pre-orders are open now](#) and must be placed by December 15 from Deserts Without Regrets. Choose from gourmet cookies, decorated sugar cookies, PYO cookies, colorful macarons, assorted treat boxes, cakes, and cake pops—perfect for gifting or celebrating. We also offer healthier, allergy-friendly options so everyone can feel included at your holiday table. To order, contact Daria at 312-610-9033 and mention EAC for a 10% discount. Don't wait—bring home delicious, handcrafted holiday joy this season!



Donate to FFGE for a chance to win a [gourmet dinner for six at Niche in Geneva](#), where the chefs bring warmth and light to every plate.

GIVE AT [FFGE.ORG](#)



ELGIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

# HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

THE HEMMENS CULTURAL CENTER

SATURDAY • **DECEMBER 13** • 2:30 PM

SATURDAY • **DECEMBER 13** • 7:30 PM

SUNDAY • **DECEMBER 14** • 2:30 PM

The Elgin Annual Holiday Tradition! Come experience this festive holiday performance including favorite carols, new spins on modern favorites, and an appearance by Santa Claus!

Chad Goodman, conductor  
Elgin Master Chorale  
Integrity School of Dance

TICKETS START AT

**\$20**

Students - Half Off. Ask about our Free Youth Tickets for children ages 17 and under.

Se habla español **847-888-4000 • [ELGINSYMPHONY.ORG](#)**



## Don't Miss the Incredible Dinosaur Explorer Exhibit



Experience a prehistoric adventure at the Dinosaur Explorer Exhibit, on display now through Jan. 4 at Gail Borden Main Library. This interactive exhibit brings the wildest, wackiest and most wondrous dinosaurs to life. Dinosaur Explorer offers thrilling discovery for families and friends of all ages.

Make your visit even more exciting by attending the Jurassic Park (1993, PG-13) film screening at the Main Library on Dec. 30 at 2 pm, where you can see these legendary giants come to life on the big screen. Stomp into Dinosaur Explorer and learn more at [gailborden.info/dino2025](http://gailborden.info/dino2025).



Host Your Next Event at the Holiday Inn & Suites - Elgin

The Holiday Inn & Suites Chicago Northwest - Elgin offers a variety of versatile spaces perfect for any meeting, conference, or social gathering. Conveniently located just off I-90, this contemporary hotel is ready to help you plan an unforgettable event.

### Meeting and Event Spaces

The hotel features numerous rooms suitable for different event sizes and needs:

- **Large Spaces:** The **Grand Ballroom** and the **Special Events Convention Center** are available for larger gatherings and functions.
- **Breakout & Smaller Rooms:** For more intimate meetings or breakout sessions, the hotel offers the **Ruby Room, Emerald Room, Skyview** and **Crystals**.
  - **Boardroom:** The **Diamond Boardroom** is available for executive meetings.
- **Other Spaces:** Other notable areas include the **Skyview Room on the 8th Floor** and **Bennigan's VIP lounge**

### Social Events and Special Occasions

Whether you're planning a corporate party or a family get-together, the hotel can accommodate your social event needs:

- **Holiday Celebrations:** The hotel specifically welcomes events for the holiday season, offering space to help you "enjoy your holidays without all the work of having it at the office or at home," as noted on the web page.
- **Dining Areas:** **Crystal's Breakfast Restaurant** and the **Bennigan's VIP lounge** can also be utilized for events.

### Dining and Amenities

Your event will be complemented by the hotel's on-site dining options and amenities:

- **On-Site Dining:** The hotel has **two on-site restaurants**, including **Bennigan's Bar and Grill** (though note that Bennigan's will be closed for renovations from November 22 to December 8, 2025, with its menu being served in Crystal's lounge during that time).
- **Guest Comforts:** Attendees can take advantage of the indoor **Swimming Pool, Fitness Center**, and **on-site parking**.

To book your next event, you can contact the hotel at 1-847-717-8654 or via email at [Sales@hichicagonw.com](mailto:Sales@hichicagonw.com).



## NEW \$101 Seasonal Rate for Elgin Area Chamber Members

Elgin Area Chamber members can book rooms, based on availability, for stays from Sunday to Thursday.



DIRECTV - AEP which is an Advanced Entertainment System now available for our guests!

- YouTube, NETFLIX, Prime Video, Paramount+ SHOWTIME.
- 4K HDR content.
- App-based and on demand programming.
- Live TV includes sports, breaking news, hit shows and more.

**BOOK NOW** OR Call the hotel directly at 847.836.9500





## Holiday Sip & Shop Event

Friday, December 12th - 5pm - 9pm

Special Holiday Shopping - Monday, December 22nd - 11a-5p

35 small business owners under one roof

Giftware, home decor, antiques and primitives, toys, kitchenalia, teas, jewelry, handcrafts, and florals

Complimentary hot chocolate or mulled cider, and food samples

Free gift wrapping and Goodie basket door prize

Wild Fairy Hair will be on hand to add sparkle to your holiday look for \$25

Tuesday - Sunday 11:00am - 5:00pm

701 N. State St (Rt 31) Elgin | 847-695-3066 | [statestreetmarketshopselgin.com](http://statestreetmarketshopselgin.com)



## M3 Dance Company Presents The Nutcracker

Hemmens Cultural Center

45 Symphony Way, Elgin

Dec 6 | Noon and 5 p.m.

Dec 7 | Noon

## Keep me in mind

For your next graphic project



ANA MARIA HINKHOUSE  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

*CREATIVITY IN ACTION*  
with more than 15 years of experience

Commercial  
Graphic Design

Corporate Identity

Bilingual Production

Illustration/Rendering

Digital Design

Web Design

Editorial Design

Label & Packaging

Print & Promos

### TRANSLATION SERVICES made *by* Latinos *for* Latinos

We provide the following services  
in English to Spanish and Spanish to  
English:

- General Translation of any written media
- Technical/specialized translations in the areas of: business, finance, health care, corporate, marketing, legal, travel, tourism, human resources, quality control and education.
- Presentations
- All kinds of advertisement pieces: fliers, posters, brochures, promos and more.



[www.anahinkhouse.com](http://www.anahinkhouse.com) | 630.524.1247 | [anahinkhouse@gmail.com](mailto:anahinkhouse@gmail.com)



### HAMPSHIRE

SHIPPING AND RECEIVING (1)  
6AM-2:30PM

\$18-\$19

MUST BE ABLE TO WORK OT  
RESUME/INTERVIEW, 5-PANEL DT



### BARTLETT

MAINTENANCE TECH (1)  
6AM-2:30PM

\$19

RESUME/INTERVIEW, 4-PANEL DT

MOLD REPAIR/TOOLROOM (2)

6AM-4:30PM

\$22

INJECTION MOLDING 10+ YEAR  
RESUME/INTERVIEW, 4-PANEL DT

PROCESS TECHNICIAN (1)

2PM-10:30PM

\$19.50

INJECTION MOLDING  
RESUME/INTERVIEW, 4-PANEL DT

### ELGIN

ELECTRICAL ASSEMBLER (3)  
6AM-2:30PM

\$19+

PREVIOUS SOLDERING  
CALL FOR MORE INFO

CNC MACHINE OPERATOR (1)  
3PM-11:30PM

\$20+

CNC EXPERIENCE  
SPEAK ENGLISH

MATERIAL HANDLER (1)

7AM-3:30PM

\$20-\$24

CALL FOR MORE INFO

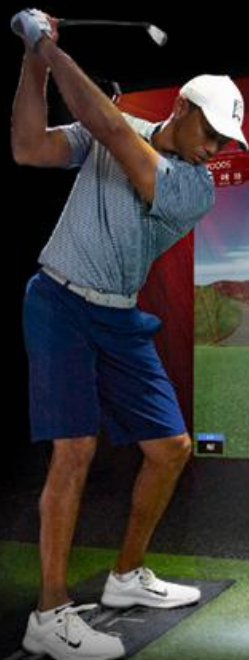
847-717-8728



# Fs PRO | 2.0

FULL SWING

SIMULATOR NOW AT THE HIGHLANDS



THE HIGHLANDS



Comfort  
Keepers®

**\$200 off one  
month of  
in-home care  
services**

*Call for details  
(847) 215-8550*

Minimum 50 hours of care. New clients only. Coupon must be presented during complementary Care Consultation. Some exclusions apply. Valid for Comfort Keepers office locations 234, 985, 954, and 1128.

## NESBITT AUTO REPAIR COMPLETE CAR CARE

Every Tuesday is Senior Citizens Day  
Every Thursday is Ladies Day.

COME IN ON YOUR DAY TO RECEIVE:



- FREE 23-Point Vehicle Inspection
- FREE Tire Rotation (A \$30 Value!)
- \$10 OFF Any Synthetic or Full Synthetic Oil Change

Contact Us



**847-888-8800**



TUESDAY  
SENIOR  
CITIZEN  
DAY

THURSDAY  
LADIES  
DAY



Visit Our Website  
Nesbittauto.com





CHICAGO \*\*\*\*  
AUTO SHOW  
*First Look*  
for Charity

*Buy Your Tickets Today!*



Friday, February 6, 2026 | McCormick Place



## Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley is proud to be one of only 18 charities featured by First Look for Charity!

Buying tickets not only helps tackle the affordable housing crisis but also benefits you and your business. It's a fantastic opportunity to share tickets with clients, vendors, and special people in your life.

**Plus**, with added sponsorship perks like free party buses from your facility, corporate build days, golf foursomes, and more, you can increase the value of your tickets by 50-75%.

Interested in learning more?

Feel free to contact: [Anne.rand@habitatnfv.org](mailto:Anne.rand@habitatnfv.org).

## GAME DAY TAILGATE PARTY



Enjoy Our Bears Game Day Specials Plus

**\$10 CHEESE CURDS**

**\$9 CHEDDAR JALAPENO BEER BRAT**

Topped With Grilled Onions And Brewpub Mustard.  
Served With Fries

**ENTER TO WIN**

**50" TV**

**Bears Jersey  
Packers Jersey**



[pourhousekitchen.com](http://pourhousekitchen.com)

\*One-in only. Not valid with other discounts or promotions. Valid only at participating locations. Must be present to 18 or older and present to win giveaways.



## Thank You!

The Ron Raglin Scholarship is deeply grateful for your support this year! Because of you, we continue to thrive.

Thank you for:

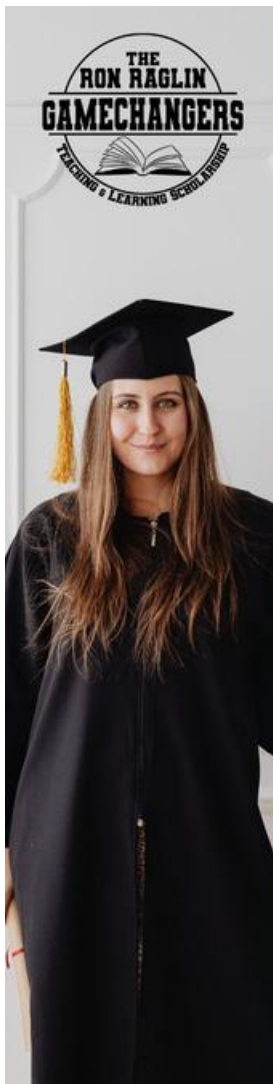
- **Funding Futures:** Supporting our Annual Scholarship Dinner.
- **Dining for a Cause:** Participating in fundraising events like the recent Dine In with The Pour House.
- **Honoring Heroes:** Nominating the incredible GameChangers in our community.

Your support is everything!



**Ready to make an even bigger impact?**

[Visit our website](#) to learn more about Ron Raglin Scholarship mission and how you can get involved today!







## 32nd Annual Children's Champion Celebration Gala: Light Their Way

CASA Kane County invites you to join us for the 32nd Annual Children's Champion Celebration Gala— Light Their Way—on March 7, 2026 at The Q Center. This inspiring evening brings together community and business leaders in support of children in foster care. Guests will enjoy dinner, auctions, raffles, and opportunities to make a meaningful impact. Event proceeds directly support CASA's mission to provide trained advocates for children who need a voice.

Early-bird tickets and sponsorships are now available. Learn more at [casakanecounty.org](https://casakanecounty.org).

## Illinois Mobile ID now available for Apple Wallet



Illinois residents can securely add their Illinois-issued driver's license or state ID to Apple Wallet and present their ID using their iPhone and Apple Watch. This marks a new era of convenience and digital innovation for the state, enabling residents to present their driver's license and state ID in Apple Wallet in-person, online and in-apps at select businesses and organizations, including at TSA checkpoints at over 250+ airports in the U.S, including O'Hare, Midway and Lambert. The Illinois Mobile ID program will soon expand to Google and Samsung Wallets, ensuring that every Illinois resident with a mobile phone has access to secure, digital identification. [Read More](#)



Best Western  
Plus Elgin  
West Dundee  
**NOW OPEN**



The hotel has undergone an extensive remodeling and rebranding to become the Best Western Plus Elgin West Dundee. This complete transformation offers a modernized stay featuring fully renovated guest rooms and public spaces. Guests will enjoy contemporary furnishings, updated bathrooms, and sleek amenities designed for ultimate comfort and convenience.

### Guests enjoy

Free WiFi, a complimentary hot breakfast, ample parking, and great leisure features, including a beautiful outdoor courtyard with a fireplace, a 24/7 fitness center, a heated indoor pool, and guest laundry. Each stylish and functional room includes a smart TV, microwave, mini-refrigerator, and a spacious work area.

**Special Offer:** Come experience our meeting space! It's free for EAC members until January 31, 2026.

**BOOK NOW**

2175 Marriott Drive, West Dundee, Illinois 60118 United States (847) 429-0300





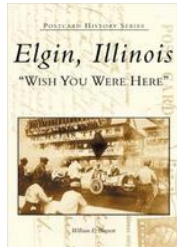
## December at Golden Hour Chiropractic

Give the gift of feeling good this season! Golden Hour Chiropractic is offering holiday wellness gift cards, perfect for anyone needing pain relief, stress relief, or a fresh start before the new year. We're also hosting a Beauty & Wellness Night on December 4th with KV Beauty, featuring modern skincare insights and holistic chiropractic tips. Plus, join us on December 11th for a hands-on Meal Prep 101 workshop with Duck a Diet with simple strategies to make healthy eating easier all week long. Treat yourself or give someone a moment to align, restore, and glow this holiday season.

Learn more at: [goldenhourchiropractic.com](https://goldenhourchiropractic.com)

## Shop With Purpose at Elgin History Museum

Looking for the perfect Elgin-inspired gift? [The Elgin History Museum Store](#) is the only place to find unique Elgin merchandise you won't see anywhere else.



The gift shop is full of custom, Elgin related gifts. Some items are made by local artisans in small batches.

### NEW items to check out:

- LeeWards inspired ornament Velvet Glow
- Elgin History Museum ball cap with leatherette patch
- Jewelry made with genuine Elgin watch faces
- Elgin Eagle Brewing replica growler



ELGIN  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM

## Simplifying Therapy



Dear Community,

As we close another meaningful year, we want to take a moment to pause – to reflect, to honor, and to express our deepest gratitude.

Our journey officially began in 2021, but our founder, Marissa Raglin, has been serving clients since 2016 – weaving education, empowerment, community, and mental health into the very fabric of her life and the brand she built around Simplifying Therapy. From the beginning, her mission has been clear: to make therapeutic approaches more understandable, and tools and techniques more tangible, so that everyone has access to what they need to do life, better. Since that time, we've had the honor of serving thousands through our programs, workshops, and toolkits – each one designed to make mental health education accessible and prevention practical.

This year has been a year of incredible growth. We proudly launched two new collections – Accept & Commit Better and Internalize & Strategize Better – completing our robust catalogue of mental health toolkits. Alongside our staple collections, Think & Behave Better and Feel & Be Better, these series work together to equip and empower individuals with the tools to live more intentionally, mindfully, and meaningfully. We also unveiled our new website, a milestone we're especially proud of. For those who have been with us since day one, you know how big of a step this is – it now beautifully showcases our work and offers a smoother, more thoughtful experience for our community.

But more than anything, we want to pause and say – thank you. None of this would be possible without the community that has supported, trusted, and grown with us across the Greater Chicagoland area and beyond. Every person who's attended a workshop, shared a resource, purchased a toolkit, or simply had a conversation about mental health has created a ripple effect that reaches far beyond what we can see. Your involvement doesn't just impact you – it touches families, classrooms, and communities. Every act of engagement becomes a wave of awareness, compassion, and prevention that helps others feel seen, supported, and understood.

May the months ahead meet you exactly where you are and offer what you need most – peace, presence, and purpose.

Better. Together.  
Marissa





## ELGIN SING-ALONG MESSIAH



2025 CHARITY PARTNER  
**WELL CHILD CENTER**



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025 AT 7:00PM  
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**



POURHOUSEKITCHEN.COM

*Limited time only*

**HOLIDAY DRINKS**



### CRANBERRY MULE

Vodka, cranberry juice, ginger beer, cranberry, with mint & rosemary garnish



### SUGAR COOKIE COCKTAIL

Vanilla Vodka, Baileys Irish Cream, half & half, amaretto, topped with whipped cream, sprinkles & mini sugar cookie



### RUM RUM RUDOLPH

Dark Rum, Coca-Cola, tart cherry juice, rosemary sprig & maraschino cherry



### CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINTINI

Baileys Chocolate Irish Cream, Tito's Vodka, Peppermint Schnapps, chocolate drizzle, mini candy cane



### POINSETTIA

Vodka, champagne, cranberry juice, cranberries

\*Available while supplies last.

1350 CHICAGO STREET, ELGIN • 847.214.1708

# Christmas POP-UPS

**Your Christmas adventure starts here!**

**Check It Out!**

6 locations each packed with twinkling lights, holiday treats, and merry surprises. Plus-you'll find awesome photo spots and Instagram-worthy backdrops to capture the magic



## Heading Into the Holiday Season: Holding Space for Grief

Join Kane County Health Department on Friday, December 12th from 9 am to 11 am for Heading Into the Holiday Season: Holding Space for Grief with Alison Stoll.

Alison is a graduate from The Chicago School for Professional Psychology with a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology. Currently, she works in private practice treating child, adolescent, and adult survivors of childhood trauma.

The holidays are often seen as a time of joy and connection, yet they can also bring feelings of grief, loneliness, and emotional exhaustion—especially for those healing from trauma or loss. This presentation offers a trauma-informed look at how to navigate the holiday season with compassion and resilience. We'll explore emotional exhaustion, the impact of collective stress, and practical ways to hold space for yourself and others during times of overwhelm. Participants will gain tools to recognize stress responses, set boundaries, and cultivate new, meaningful traditions. This training is free, provides two CEUs, and Spanish language interpretation.

[Register](#)



### Emergency Pantry Needs \*pop-tops and easy open containers are preferred when possible

Fruits & Veggies – varied kinds (no green beans)  
Canned Meats/Meals – beef stew, chili, spam, Vienna sausages, pork & beans, meaty soups, chicken/tuna/salmon  
Breakfast – cereal & oatmeal (family & individual sizes), Pop Tarts  
Pinto Beans & White Rice in 1lb bags  
Crackers, Snack on the Run, Chewy Granola Bars  
Easy Meals – Ramen, Instant Potatoes, Microwave Meals (Chef Boyardee, Dinty Moore, etc.)  
Pasta & Pasta Sauce  
Beverages – Water/Juice/Soda, Pedialyte, Protein Shakes, Drinks Mixes

2  
0  
2  
5

### Your Help Gives Hope!

The Community Crisis Center is a non-profit social services agency providing services to individuals & families in Kane & NW Suburban Cook Counties who are dealing with economic crisis, domestic, and sexual violence.

Contact 847-742-4088 for more information or visit [www.crisiscenter.org](http://www.crisiscenter.org)

We are located at 37 S. Geneva St. Elgin

Please call to schedule donations or stop by between 9a-7p

*The Community Crisis Center's skilled, caring individuals provide 24/7 crisis intervention, resources, and shelter.*

## Get Your Gift Cards for the Holidays.

You can sign up for Summer Camps which are weeklong at a discount right now. Our next season starts in the new year. We offer free trials call the school at 847-449-8068. Or sign up on our website [elgin.schoolofrock.com](http://elgin.schoolofrock.com) located at 353 S Randall Rd Elgin, IL.

**SCHOOL  
OF ROCK**  
ELGIN

(847) 449-8068

353 S Randall Rd Elgin IL 60123





## Revolutionize Your Students' Lives With The BARRIO CURRICULUM!



Ignite a passion for learning with the Barrio Curriculum. This program, built on over 15 years of experience, helps students connect with a story of hope and resilience, empowering them to reject destructive paths and dream big. The curriculum is so engaging, teachers report a "spontaneous combustion" of student interest.

Claim your **FREE** copy by emailing [robert@fromthebarrio.net](mailto:robert@fromthebarrio.net).



**ANNA MOELLER**  
State Representative



## State Representative Anna Moeller's Winter Clothing Drive

*December 5th to December 19th*

We are collecting winter clothing and essential toiletries in December to help families meet their winter needs. In addition to collecting new or gently used winter clothing, we will also be collecting toiletries, including toddler-sized diapers, baby wipes, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tampons, sanitary napkins, and deodorant.

### ❄️ DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS HERE: ❄️

#### Taylor Family YMCA

50 N. McLean Boulevard, Elgin  
Mon - Fri 6am - 7pm, Sat - Sun 7am - Noon

#### The Centre of Elgin

100 Symphony Way, Elgin  
Mon - Thurs 9 am - 6 pm, Fri & Sat 9am - Noon

#### Rep. Anna Moeller District 43 Office

164 Division St, Elgin  
Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

#### Streamwood Community Center

777 S. Bartlett Road, Streamwood  
Monday - Friday 5pm - 10pm, Sat - Sun 9am - 5pm

#### Park Place Family Recreation Center

550 S Park Blvd., Streamwood  
Mon - Fri 5:15am - 9pm, Sat - Sun 7am - 6pm

#### Dundee Township Adult Activities Center

665 Barrington Avenue, Carpentersville  
Mon - Fri 8am - 3pm

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:**

(847) 841-7130 or [StateRepMoeller@gmail.com](mailto:StateRepMoeller@gmail.com)



Gearing up for 2026: join me, Cort Stevens, for monthly events at Elgin IL's Steak'n'Shake along Randall Rd just south of historic US 20, featuring the return of the MidSummer Chitown Gathering, 07.25.2026. Additional dates to be confirmed-posted. Weekly Saturday cruise nights are also in the works. [Please click for more info](#) & to see pics of the impromptu "Fall Fun Chitown Meet'n'Greet" 11.08.2025. Please check out my 3 EAC member entities: Old Cars, Strong Hearts; CD Showcase; & CD Consulting Service.



## ACBT NEWS ALERT!

### FOX VALLEY COMMERCIAL BANKING TEAM OPENS FOR BUSINESS

American Community Bank & Trust (ACBT) celebrates 25 years of building relationships and our expansion into the Fox Valley area.

Pictured (L to R): Gail Beyer, Paul Stagen, Adam Hogan, Aubrey Marvel, Rick M. Zonts.

### Where Business Banks

10 West State Street, Suite 108,  
Geneva, IL 60134

(331) 321-8477 | amcombank.com



Schedule Your Floor Care Consultation Today!

847-741-3090

## STEP INTO 2026 ON SOLID GROUND

Don't wait! Ensure your floors are protected, safe, and impressive for the new year.



#### Protect Your Investment:

Extend floor lifespan and defer expensive replacement costs.



**Health & Safety:** Reduce slip hazards and improve indoor air quality.



**Professional Image:** Make a lasting impression on clients.

LOCK IN CURRENT RATES AND SCHEDULE DEEP CLEANING BEFORE 2026 BUDGETS BEGIN.



## THIS HOLIDAY SEASON... YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS MORE THAN EVER

We're facing a **serious shortfall**. Rising costs and funding gaps mean pets in our care risk losing medical support, essential resources, and our ability to help the next animal.

## READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

*Donating is easy!*

Venmo @andersonhumane

Zelle donations@ahconnects.org

Mail your gift to 1000 S. LaFox St.  
South Elgin, IL 60177

**OR JUST CLICK HERE TO DONATE!**







## CALL FOR WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIPS!

A workforce partner can help us build a qualified employment pool for youth 16-24 years old.

Our Workforce Wednesday initiative is an opening for you to:

- Promote your company/organization
- Find candidates for entry level positions
- Share your knowledge and skills
- Build confidence through mock interviews

Contact me for more details

Maria Stamos, YouthBuild Job Developer  
(847)586-9206 • mstamos@ybelgin.org



JOIN OUR CURRENT PARTNERS



### Pencak Silat Workshop

Saturday, December 13th, 11:00a  
Discover Pencak Silat, an Indonesian, full-body, fighting form combining strikes, kicks, grappling, and throwing. You will be introduced to basic techniques and principles and begin to recognize the underlying advantages and disadvantages of the motion rather than memorizing specific techniques. Wear something comfortable. Knowing how to fall is not required but it helps. Workshop is open to all skill and experience levels. Suggested for adults and mature youth. \$40 per person. Minimum participants required, please pre-register, but walk-ins are always welcome. 847-888-8866 or email [southelginbudokan@att.net](mailto:southelginbudokan@att.net).

### Qigong Meditation

Saturday, December 20th, 11:00a  
Qigong is a free-form Chinese martial art with plentiful, non-movement and meditative ways to practice it. Sifu Jason will introduce or refamiliarize you to the art of Qigong and lead you in peaceful and meditative practices and movement exercises. Invite a friend to join you as you relax and learn about your internal channels, Kan and Li, through Qigong Meditation. The workshop is open to all skill levels. \$40 per person. Pre-registration is preferred but drop-ins are always welcome. 847-888-8866 or email [southelginbudokan@att.net](mailto:southelginbudokan@att.net). Next session is January 17th. Bring a friend!

**all-in  
all-day**  
group pass  
for 4

- // 4 Top Tier Passes
- // 4 Pairs of Socks
- // 1 One-Topping Pizza
- // 4 Drinks

Now  
through  
2/12/26!

**Urban Air**  
ADVENTURE PARK

**URBAN AIR ADVENTURE PARK**  
**2732 E MAIN ST, ST. CHARLES**



# CAR GIVEAWAY PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS

Select Sundays in November and December, 2025



GRAND VICTORIA  
CASINO.  
ELGIN

With more ways to win, Grand Victoria offers exciting casino promotions, events, and tournaments year-round. Swipe your Caesars Rewards card to see your current promotional offers.



Casino Promotions



21 And Up

[Learn More](#)

## Holiday Art Clash

Saturday, December 13th  
@7pm

- \$15 Early Bird Tix
- Doors Open 6:30PM
- Holiday Cheer!

sponsored by  
**BLICK**  
art materials

Tickets Available Now!  
Purchase at  
[sidestreetstudioarts.org](https://sidestreetstudioarts.org)

Let's gather together for an unforgettable night  
of holiday art, music, and community!



@sidestreetsa

[sidestreetstudioarts.org](https://sidestreetstudioarts.org)

ELLA  
WINES

CELEBRATE CULTURE,  
CELEBRATE  
WINE

GET **20% OFF**

Merlot, Tempranillo  
& Nebbiolo





# Commercial & Residential Mortgage Officer Joe Magnelli



First Federal Savings Bank is growing, so I am pleased to have joined the lending team as a Commercial & Residential Mortgage Officer at the Elgin branch!

With over 29 years of lending and banking experience, I look forward to helping connect the members of our communities to mortgage solutions specifically designed to fit their needs.

I understand the importance of building long-term relationships and will always provide excellent customer service. When your clients are ready to apply for a loan, you can encourage them to connect with me directly or request a consultation through my official page by scanning the QR code below.



## Joe Magnelli

Commercial & Residential  
Mortgage Officer  
NMLS: 363231  
325 S. Randall Rd  
Elgin, IL 60123  
(847) 468-1214 X 1320  
(847) 514-1110(cell)  
jmagnelli@ffsbweb.com



All loans are subject to credit and underwriting approval. Other fees and restrictions may apply.



Interested in saving 50%-70% on labor costs and establishing a foundation for AI and Automations in your business processes?

**EPS OPTIC(S)®** Outsourcing provides a free 60 minute call to discuss whether outsourcing may be an option for you! (It is not right for all businesses, and we will help you determine whether it can help your business to save cost & improve processes to help you scale!)

## Avoid retirement pitfalls

Don't wait until it's too late.



THORNWOOD  
FINANCIAL



**FREE WEBINAR: DEC 16**

Securities offered through Concorde Investment Services, LLC (CIS), member FINRA / SIPC. Advisory services offered through Concorde Asset Management, LLC (CAM), an SEC registered investment adviser. Insurance products offered through Concorde Insurance Agency, Inc. (CIA). Thornwood Financial is independent of CIS, CAM and CIA.



## Is Your Team Stuck or Spinning?

Your team is likely struggling with too little adaptability for today's quickly changing world.

I help leaders and teams build clarity and collaboration so they can focus, align, and execute as things change.

### Your Team Gains:

- Problem-solving clarity
- Flexible thinking
- Stronger collaboration
- Tools you can use immediately

### Options

- Workshops
- Team Retreats
- Coaching
- Keynotes

### About Erin Ramirez:

Organizational Scientist + former Head of Change Readiness (Fortune 500)

Email: [erin@realchangestudio.com](mailto:erin@realchangestudio.com)

Website: [www.realchangestudio.com](http://www.realchangestudio.com)

### December Chamber Member Bonus!

Free Adaptability Intelligence (AQ) assessment + leader debrief with any Q1 booking.



## GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE



### ELEVATE YOUR NEXT FUNDRAISER WITH AUCTIONEER STEVE THOREN



Hi, I'm Steve Thoren, and my passion is turning your fundraising event into a record-breaking success to fuel your mission.

### My Clients Love Me. Here's Why:

- **Proven Results:** I consistently raise more funds per item than other auctioneers.
- **High Retention:** Clients book and retain me year after year because they see the direct impact on their fundraising goals.
- **Mission-Focused:** Every bid is driven by my commitment to your cause.

### Is Your Gala Ready for the Next Level?

Book with Steve Today!

### Steve Thoren

Fundraising Auctioneer

Ph. 847-840-7319

Email: [steve@raisingpaddles.com](mailto:steve@raisingpaddles.com)

## GALACTIC BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

READY TO GROW?

VISIT [ELGINDEVELOPMENT.COM](http://ELGINDEVELOPMENT.COM)

CAMP BIG TIMBER  
37W955 BIG TIMBER RD, ELGIN

Enjoy a spectacular breakfast with your favorite man from the North Pole as well as his galactic buddies at Camp Big Timber in Elgin, IL.

PICTURES WITH SANTA AND THE 501ST MIDWEST GARRISON CHARACTERS

\$15 YOUTH  
\$20 ADULT

SEATINGS AT 8AM AND 11AM

THE FORCE IS STRONG WITH THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT



Blast off into holiday magic at the Galactic Breakfast with Santa, happening at Camp Big Timber in Elgin! Families and Scouts will enjoy a delicious breakfast, festive crafts, and intergalactic fun. Meet Santa Claus and his Galactic Friends as they make a special landing to celebrate the season. Snap photos, share your wish list, and enjoy hands-on holiday activities in a winter wonderland that's truly out of this world. Tickets are limited, so reserve your spot early! All proceeds benefit Scouting America Three Fires Council, supporting local youth programs and outdoor adventures.