



ELGIN AREA CHAMBER

CLICK &



CONNECT >>>

January 2026

Kane County Clerk's Office Expands to Elgin

The Kane County Clerk's Office has officially opened its second satellite office to provide access to key services for residents in the northern part of the county. The office, located in Elgin, will offer requests for birth, death, and marriage certificates, as well as election services and passport applications. This new location significantly reduces travel time for Elgin-area residents. By bringing these vital services directly into the community, the Clerk's Office continues its commitment to enhancing efficiency and public engagement across the region. [READ MORE](#)

EAC Influencer Spotlight: Velma Sept Celebrates Over 20 Volunteer Years



For over 20 years, Velma Sept has been a cornerstone of the Elgin business and non-profit community. Serving as a dedicated EAC Influencer, formerly called Ambassador, Velma has built a reputation for tireless service that has earned her the affectionate nickname "The Mayor of Elgin" among friends and family.

Her influence extends far beyond the business world. As a long-time board member of the Boys & Girls Club, she

champions the next generation, while her work in Community Outreach for the Black Women's Association ensures that diverse voices are heard and empowered throughout the city. Velma is a testament to the idea that longevity and leadership go hand in hand.

If you have Chamber questions or would like assistance with maximizing your engagement, be sure to seek out Velma Sept! With her two decades of experience and deep community ties, she is the expert connector and a welcoming resource ready to help you.

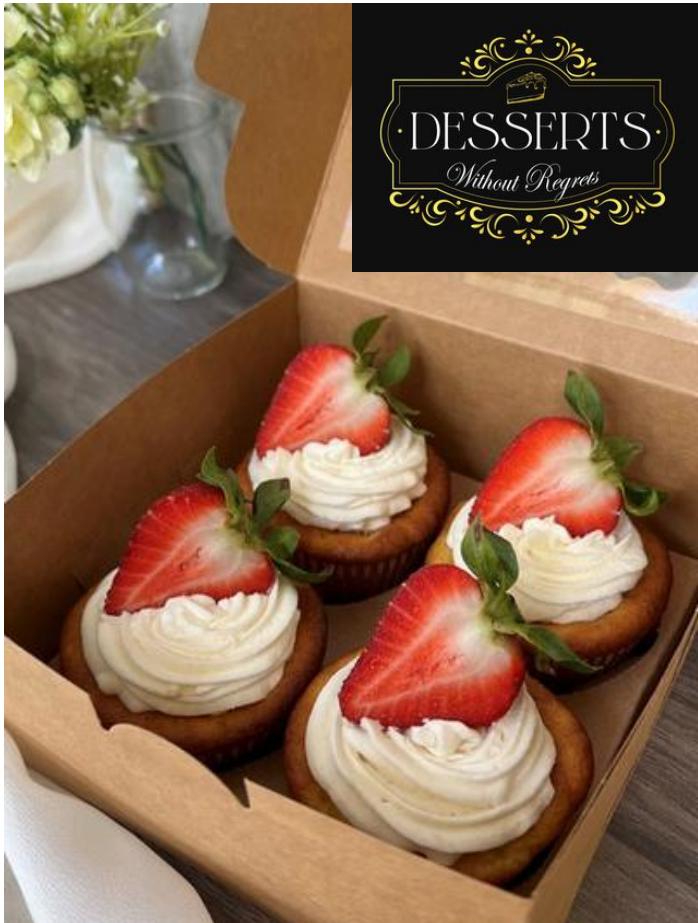
[Learn how to becoming an EAC Influencer](#)

Bear Family Restaurants Announces Transition While Remaining Rooted in Elgin

After nearly six decades of serving communities through McDonald's restaurants, Bear Family Restaurants completed a phased transition of its restaurant operations in 2025, concluding with the sale of its final 25 locations on December 16. At its peak, the family proudly operated 35 restaurants across the region.

While this chapter has closed, the Bear family remains deeply rooted in Elgin. Their home office continues to operate locally, and their commitment to community involvement continues through BFRx Hospitality, the next evolution of the Bear Family legacy. The company's first venture is a multi-unit partnership with K9 Resorts Luxury Pet Hotel, focused on best-in-class pet hospitality. [Learn more at www.bfr-x.com](#).





Start The New Year Sweetly with a January Offer for Chamber Members!

Our Assorted Better-For-You Treat Boxes are perfect for meetings, gifting, or a fresh-start indulgence.

Each box features a chef's mix of gluten-free, refined sugar-free favorites: cake pops, cookies, cupcakes, and éclairs.

Made with clean ingredients and big flavor, these treats satisfy without the crash.

Dairy-free/vegan options are available—contact us to customize.

Preorders accepted through Jan 15; pickup or delivery available Jan 22–30. Limited quantities.

Perfect for teams, clients, celebrations, and wellness-focused resolutions—order early to reserve your treat box.

Visit us at: dessertswithoutregrets.com

An advertisement for Leith Heating & Cooling. The top half features the text 'NEW YEAR NEW WAYS TO SAVE!' in large, gold, block letters against a background of fireworks. Below this is a large yellow circle containing the number '\$35'. To the left of the circle is a photo of two company vans. To the right, text reads 'OFF FURNACE REPAIR OVER \$100'. At the bottom, the Leith logo is shown with the text '847.737.3168' and 'leith-hvac.com'. A small note at the very bottom states: '** Exclusions Apply. Cannot be combined with other offers. May not be applied to prior service. Must be presented at time of service. No Cash value. EXP 01/31/26**'.

An advertisement for Ella Wines. The top right features the 'ELLA WINES' logo. The central text reads 'CELEBRATE CULTURE, CELEBRATE WINE' in large, white, serif letters. Below this is a large gold balloon-like '20%' with the word 'OFF' next to it. To the left of the balloon is a bottle of Merlot wine, and to the right is a bottle of Tempranillo wine. The bottom text reads 'Merlot, Tempranillo & Nebbiolo'. The background is dark with colorful floral illustrations.

Check It Out! January 2026 Business Book of the Month

Business Made Simple: Sixty Days to Master Leadership, Communication, Sales, and More

Favorite Quote: "Great leaders become great because their mission makes them great. There are no exceptions."

It is the New Year! Entrepreneurs all over are finally acting on their dreams in starting a small business venture – but, where to begin? Though it might be overwhelming at first, it does not have to be. Learning the fundamentals is not complicated thanks to Donald Miller's Business Made Simple: Sixty Days to Master Leadership, Communication, Sales, and More. Miller sets out to streamline the foundations of what it takes to start a business, demystifying how businesses work and giving readers the confidence to understand and apply core concepts. Drawing on his experience as an entrepreneur and business coach, he writes for everyday professionals, not MBAs, using clear language and an encouraging, no-frills approach that makes the topic feel surprisingly approachable. [Continue Reading](#)

Business Made Simple.

60 Days to Master
Leadership, Sales,
Marketing, Execution,
Management, Personal
Productivity and More

Author: Donald Miller
Date of Publication: 2021
Publisher: HarperCollins
Leadership

HOST YOUR NEXT MEETING WITH US!

DISCOVER THE IDEAL SETTING FOR YOUR NEXT GATHERING AT THE
HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & SUITES – ELGIN.

WITH OVER 10,000 SQ. FT. OF VERSATILE EVENT SPACE, WE CAN ACCOMMODATE GROUPS FROM 1 TO 250, MAKING US THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR TEAM MEETINGS, TRAININGS, CONFERENCES, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.



PLANNING LUNCH OR DINNER?
LET US TAKE CARE OF IT! OUR TALENTED CULINARY TEAM SPECIALIZES IN CRAFTING DELICIOUS, CUSTOMIZED MENUS THAT WILL KEEP YOUR GUESTS ENERGIZED AND IMPRESSED.

NEED A PLACE TO UNWIND?
WRAP UP A PRODUCTIVE DAY WITH DRINKS AT OUR BRAND-NEW, FULLY RENOVATED BENNIGAN'S. WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN OPEN BAR PACKAGE OR A CASUAL SPOT TO RELAX WITH COLLEAGUES, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

MAKE PLANNING EASY
CONTACT MERCEDES TODAY TO DISCUSS YOUR EVENT DETAILS AND TAKE THE STRESS OUT OF COORDINATING YOUR Q1 2026 MEETINGS!



AS YOU LIFT EVERY VOICE, LET
FREEDOM RING

ELGIN ANNOUNCES 41ST ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY EVENTS

The City of Elgin's Human Relations Commission and its Martin Luther King Jr. Subcommittee will host the 41st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Events throughout January 2026.

Residents of all ages are invited to honor the life, legacy and continued work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through opportunities for service, reflection, education and celebration.

Full event details and registration information are available at
<https://elginil.gov/1023/Martin-Luther-King-Jr-Events>



Cuttingo Engraving LLC is a family-owned, veteran-operated business specializing in custom laser-engraved gifts and branded products. From corporate swag and employee appreciation items to personalized home décor and event keepsakes, we help turn ideas into meaningful, lasting pieces. Every item is designed and engraved with care, focusing on quality, creativity, and local connection. We're proud to support businesses, organizations, and families with customized products that make an impact—whether for promotions, celebrations, or everyday use.

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE STORE WWW.CUTTINGO.COM

VNA Health Care

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VNA Health Care is an in-network provider with Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL, Cigna, United Healthcare, and other plans. Visit VNAHealth.com for a complete list of accepted plans and covered services.

Have employees not eligible for company benefits? VNA also accepts Medicare, Medicaid, and those without insurance.

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- Family practice/Internal medicine
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- Women's health / OB-GYN
- Mental / Behavioral health
- Dental
- Foot health / Podiatry
- Dietitian / Nutrition services



CONVENIENT

- 15 locations in Chicago Suburbs
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- Morning, daytime, evening, and weekend hours
- Online patient portal to make appointments, get test results, contact care team & more - anytime



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- 2024 HRSA awardee for care quality, care access & health technology

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sderama@vnahealth.com | 630-892-4355 x8116



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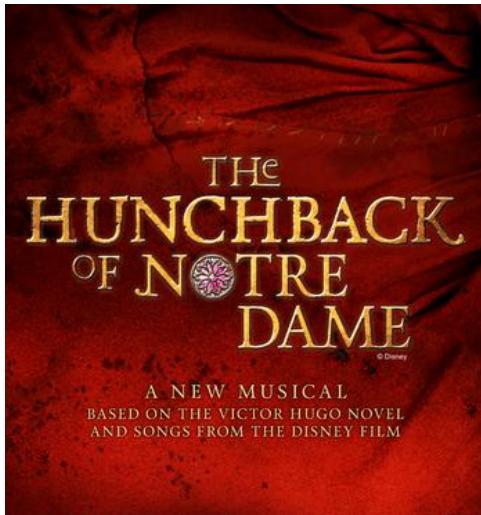


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- Distribution Center Manager
- Distribution Center Supervisor
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- Skilled Forklift Operators

SEND RESUMES TO:

JKILGORE@ACCURATEUSA.COM



Elgin Symphony Orchestra, point2pointproductions bring concert version of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" to stage

The Elgin Symphony Orchestra and point2pointproductions are bringing a concert-style performance of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" to The Hemmens Cultural Center on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. This lushly scored retelling of Victor Hugo's epic story of love, acceptance and what it means to be a hero showcases music from Disney's Academy Award nominated 1996 animated film and incorporates new songs by the legendary creative team of Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz. Tickets are available at www.ElginSymphony.org. Ticket prices range from \$25 - \$65. Student tickets are \$15.



January is a great time to check your supplies and restock! It's also a great time to refresh any outdated signage and marketing supplies

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Envelopes | <input type="checkbox"/> Posters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letterheads | <input type="checkbox"/> Menus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Catalogs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forms | <input type="checkbox"/> Brochures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Checks | <input type="checkbox"/> Folders |

and more...

Please enjoy 15% off your first order in 2026!



460 Briargate Dr. Suite 800 | South Elgin, IL 60177 | 847-289-9030 | il231@minutemanpress.com

Not applicable on custom or promotional products. May not be combined with other offers or discounts. Only valid at Minuteman Press, South Elgin.



FS PRO | 2.0

SIMULATOR NOW AT THE HIGHLANDS



THE HIGHLANDS



BRADEN

SMITH

3

#TEAMBRADEN

Braden Business Systems, a leading provider of business technology solutions, is proud to announce its new partnership with local hero and collegiate basketball guard Braden Smith as part of the company's #TeamBraden campaign. The collaboration highlights shared values of reliability, excellence, and community commitment – core principles that both Braden Business Systems and Braden Smith exemplify in their work.

[FULL PRESS RELEASE](#)

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



Step Into 2026 on Solid Ground—Schedule Your Free Janitorial or Office Maintenance Services

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Tailored Services. Pristine Floors. Guaranteed Reliability.

- Office Cleaning & Sanitization
- Commercial Carpet & Floor Care
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High-traffic floors need more than occasional cleaning. We offer ongoing maintenance plans that protect your flooring investment and maintain a polished appearance, including:

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Call 847-741-3090

HyR UP

SOLUTIONS, INC.

SCHAUMBURG

WELDER
SAM-1:30PM (TUESDAY-THURSDAY)
\$20 STARTING PAY

BARTLETT

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
6:00 AM - 2:30 PM
\$19
MOLD REPAIR/TOOLROOM
6:00 AM - 4:30 PM
\$22

PROCESS TECHNICIAN
2:00 PM - 10:30 PM
\$19.50

MATERIAL HANDLER
10:00PM - 6:00AM
\$18

ELGIN

ELECTRICAL ASSEMBLER
6AM-2:30PM
\$19+ (DEPENDING ON EXPERIENCE) \$20-\$24 (DEPENDING ON EXPERIENCE)

MATERIAL HANDLER
7AM-3:30PM
\$18

HAMPSHIRE

SHIPPING AND RECEIVING
6AM-2:30PM
\$18-\$19 - MUST BE ABLE TO WORK OT

GROUND-SKEEPER ASSISTANT
6AM-2:30PM
\$17 - MUST WORK OT

FOR MORE INFO: 847-514-5131

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WWW.MCNALLYHVAC.COM

Elgin Area Chamber visit us at elginchamber.com

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Become a 2026 Internship Host

Sponsored by the AED Foundation and in partnership with Northern Kane County Region 110, Alignment hosted its 2025 Internship Host Recognition Breakfast on December 4 at Bartlett Hills Golf Club. More than 50 organizations were celebrated for providing 243 students with paid internships, over 13,000 hours of real-world experience and a \$700,000 community return. Various speakers highlighted the powerful impact of internships on career readiness and workforce development. With a goal of placing 300 students in Summer 2026, we invite businesses to join us as host sites. Interested? [Contact ace@align4edu.net](mailto:ace@align4edu.net), efe.stirn@central301.net or ace@align4edu.net



SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

ABOUT US:



- Preschool 3 - 8th grade
- Teacher-Centered Approach to Learning
- STEM (Project Lead the Way)
- Advanced Math Placement Available
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WWW.STMELGIN.ORG

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BCP Group: Packaging, Crating & Logistics—Beyond the Basics

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Formerly known as Basic Crating and Packaging, our evolution reflects the expanded capabilities we now offer. From custom crating and specialized packaging solutions to warehousing, distribution, and transportation, we provide end-to-end support tailored to your needs. Through our divisions—BCP Industrial, Dangerous Goods Group, and C2 Group—we deliver precision, compliance, and reliability at every stage.

Visit Our Website



Register TODAY! Marklund's Inaugural Run, Walk & Roll- Elgin on April 26th!

Be part of something new and inspiring in our community! Join the Inaugural Run, Walk & Roll 5K/1 Mile- Elgin, an event for everyone. Whether you race or cheer from the sidelines, you'll help kick off a fun, inclusive community tradition. Register or donate to support a great cause and make history with us. <https://p2p.onecause.com/rwrelgin/>

Marklund is a nonprofit organization serving children and adults with profound disabilities and special healthcare needs. Proceeds from this event support life-enhancing programs and services for individuals with complex medical and developmental needs.



MARKLUND
829
26
**RUN
WALK
&
ROLL**
5K/1 MILE - ELGIN

Run, Walk & Roll - Elgin
5K/1 MILE
APRIL 26, 2026 AT 8:30 A.M.

CONEXIÓN
COMUNITARIA
TALLERES
INFORMATIVOS



COMMUNITY
CONNECTION
INFORMATIONAL
WORKSHOPS

ENERO/JANUARY

8

ABIENDO CARRERAS EN ENERGÍA RENOVABLE
UNLOCKING CAREERS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

CARPENTERSVILLE



KEINAN CARPENTER
548 FOUNDATION

9

ENTRENAMIENTO PARA PREVENIR EL SUICIDIO
SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

HANOVER PARK



CENTRO &
KENNETH YOUNG CENTER

15

CUIDADO FAMILIAR CON APOYO ECONÓMICO
FAMILY CAREGIVING WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ELGIN



OKSANA KRUSHELNYTSKA
ESA

22

CONSTRUYENDO CONFIANZA FINANCIERA
BUILDING FINANCIAL CONFIDENCE

ELGIN



EDWIN URBIETA
REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

29

ENTREGA DE CHROMEBOOKS GRATIS
FREE CHROMEBOOK DISTRIBUTIONS

CENTRO @ FFG



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REGISTRATION PREFERRED BUT NOT REQUIRED

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3036 WAKEFIELD DR, CARPENTERSVILLE, IL 60110

ESCANEA EL CODIGO QR PARA REGISTRARSE
SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

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5 - 6 PM

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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.

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CHICAGO STEEL

FOX VALLEY
ICE ARENA
FIREWALL TOUR

FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

CHICAGO STEEL vs. MUSKEGON LUMBERJACKS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026 | 7:05 PM

- Join us for a night of family fun and fundraising on Pickleball Night with a Pickleball Paddle Giveaway (first 500 fans)!
- Cheer on the Steel while supporting Food for Greater Elgin

SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE



USE OFFER CODE: ELGIN

SPECIAL OFFER
\$15 WHITE ZONE TICKET

\$5 from every ticket purchased will benefit
FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

Questions? Contact Alexis Abelove at 630-828-6267 or email aabelove@chicagosteelhockeyteam.com

855-51-STEEL | CHICAGOSTEELHOCKEYTEAM.COM | FOX VALLEY
ICE ARENA



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2026Centre of Elgin
Heritage Ballroom

GAMECHANGERS SCHOLARSHIP DINNER



Tickets are available at
www.raglinscholarship.com



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF NORTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS**



Join us for our
Great Futures Breakfast!



January 29, 2026
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
(Registration & Networking 7:30 AM)

Th Grand Ballroom
at Grand Victoria
250 S Grove Ave.,
Elgin, IL 60120



Scan here to
register!



VISIT BGCNCILORG/EVENTS/ OR CALL 224-380-4856 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Simplifying Therapy



As we kick off 2026, we are inviting you to join us in a movement we call The Ripple Effect- the small, intentional actions that spark real, lasting change in every corner of our community. You are invited to be part of a movement that makes preventive mental health visible, accessible, and practical by choosing one small action that creates lasting impact.

Below are simple ways to join us in creating a ripple effect of preventative mental health:

1. Explore our mission. Increase awareness. simplifyingtherapy.com
2. Engage with our content. Comment and share.
3. Purchase a toolkit or merch. Support prevention.
4. Hold a safe space for someone. Normalize courageous conversations.

Together, we're not just raising awareness, we're building a ripple effect as Partners in Prevention- moving our community and country toward a future where prevention leads the way. Thank you for being part of this community! Thank you for believing in prevention. Thank you for helping us create a ripple that keeps moving.

Partnered in Prevention, Marissa Raglin LCPC, NBCC Founder, [Simplifying Therapy](https://simplifyingtherapy.com)

Find Anderson Humane's Next
SHELTER VETERINARIAN
 Earn Up To A \$5,000 Referral Bonus



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KNOW A VET WHO WANTS TO PRACTICE
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Our vet provides compassionate medical and surgical care to animals in our shelter and through our low-cost community vet clinic.

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 GOING TWICE**

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 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.

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 Steve
 Today!**

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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!)

Unlimited Play MEMBERSHIP

Unlimited Play, one Low Price

- Save 50% off everyday ticket prices
- 6 or 12 month memberships
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- Monthly member appreciation events
- Food & beverage deals & More!

Get up to 1 free Month on us! with a prepaid membership only

urbanAir
ADVENTURE PARK



Pencak Silat Workshop

Saturday, January 10th, 11:00a

Discover Pencak Silat, an Indonesian 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. EAC members get \$5 discount.

Qigong Meditation

Saturday, January 17th, 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

Visit Our Calendar

Start the Year with Financial Clarity

Clean books. Clear insights. Confident decisions.



*"Your bookkeeping partner—
behind the scenes, every step of the way."*

Start 2026 on solid financial footing. | yourfrontEoffice.com | Proud Chamber Member

IS YOUR TEAM READY FOR 2026?

New systems. New pressures.
Constant disruption.

I deliver in-house workshops and keynotes that give your leaders practical adaptability tools they can use immediately.

- Question Storming for clarity
- Mental flexibility techniques
- Better, faster decisions
- Stronger collaboration

Who We Are

Your Front eOffice is a women-owned, virtual bookkeeping and advisory firm supporting small businesses and nonprofits across Illinois and beyond.

What We Help With

- Monthly bookkeeping & reconciliations
- Financial reporting & cleanup
- Nonprofit & small business expertise
- Year-end readiness & advisory support

Who We Support

From local businesses to community-driven nonprofits, we partner with organizations that want their finances organized, compliant, and working for their mission.



ERIN RAMIREZ, REAL CHANGE STUDIO

Organizational Scientist + Former Fortune 500 Senior Leader
Email erin@realchangestudio.com to discuss your team's needs.