



Hello friends & neighbors,  
As the state, the nation and the world begin to reopen following the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us are looking forward to summer trips and other travel this year. If you're in search of travel inspiration, I encourage you to visit [Enjoy Illinois](#) for road trip routes, scenic parks and other popular attractions across the state. And remember: The best way to protect yourself and your family on your travels—especially if you're visiting somewhere with rising rates of COVID-19 transmission—is to [get vaccinated](#).

### Passport Delays

If you're planning a trip out of the country, look before you book—passport renewals are taking longer than normal. Expedited processing is taking an estimated 12 weeks from submission to receipt, and regular processing may take 18 weeks. Find up-to-date processing time estimates at [Travel.State.Gov](#).

### REAL IDs ready by Spring 2023

The federal Department of Homeland Security has extended the deadline for residents to get a REAL ID due to the pandemic. Airports will continue to accept current state IDs and driver's license until the new May 3, 2023 deadline. Learn more about REAL ID and how to apply for one at [REALID.ilsos.gov](#).

### Women on Wednesdays

I will be partnering up with the Aurora Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to bring you Women On Wednesdays! A three part seminar with the amazing following speakers:

*Karina Garcia* of the AHCC will present on August 11th - Networking, Marketing and Branding

*Diana Alfaro* of DCEO will present on August 18th - State Resources and DCEO funding

*Terrie Simmons* of Strategic Exceptions will present on August 25th - Business Structure / Correct Documentation

If you are interested in attending please fill out this [form](#)!



### Batavia Chili Cook Off

The Chili Appreciation Society will be hosting a Batavia Chili Cook Off this Saturday August 7th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Peg Bond Center. To compete, the entry fee is \$25 and you can email Brittany Meyer at [brittanym@bataviaparks.org](mailto:brittanym@bataviaparks.org). To taste test there is no need to register! Just go to the Peg Bond Center at 1:30 p.m. and pay \$5 for a spoon. For more information visit: <https://bataviaparks.org/special-events>.

### Kids Maker Market

On August 8th from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Oswego will host its Kids Maker Market and Garage Sale at the Oswego Country Market. This is a chance for kids to sell the crafts they make. Check out their [Facebook Event](#).



### What's Next?

My staff and I look forward to hearing from you! I encourage you to reach out to us at 630-326-9319 (English), 630-326-9419 (Spanish) or [constituentservices@senatorvilla.com](mailto:constituentservices@senatorvilla.com).

Stay cool!

Karina Villa, MSW  
State Senator, 25th District