



State Senator Karina Villa

IL 25TH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2ND, 2021



Hello friends & neighbors,

It's the first week of December! I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your friends and loved ones. Last Sunday marked the beginning of Hanukkah. Hanukkah is a holiday observed by those in the Jewish faith. This eight-day celebration is an occasion marked by joy and full of lessons regarding dedication, light, and hope. I'm proud to serve such a diverse district, Happy Holiday Season.

Gateway Foundation Tour

Last week, Representative Hirschauer and I toured Gateway Foundation in Aurora. Gateway is an organization that aids individuals suffering from addiction. While there, I learned more about their plans for expansion and vision for the future.



Grants Available for Community Projects

The Federal Economic Development Administration's Economic Adjustment

Assistance program will help hundreds of communities across the nation plan, build, innovate and put people back to work through construction or non-construction projects designed to meet local needs. \$500 million is available to fund an estimated 300 projects. There is a rolling deadline with a suggested submission date of March 31, 2022. Webinars and more information can be found [here](#).

Small Business Spotlight

Wicked Wrench in South Elgin is a women owned automotive repair shop with over 20 years of mechanic experience. They offer a wide variety of [services](#) and they will also be offering free automotive "basics" classes to the community in 2022. I also want to thank Wicked Wrench for helping our office with our Menstrual Product Drive!

Holiday Pet Pictures With Santa

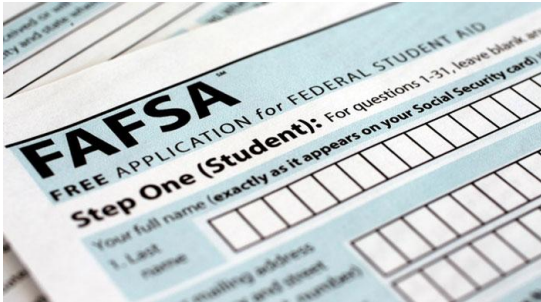


This Saturday, December 4th the West Chicago Park District is hosting an event that features Pet Pictures with Santa from

10:00am-1:00pm. Each registrant will receive one ornament and a digital photo via email. An additional fee will be added for more than one ornament. The cost is \$10 for residents, \$12 for non-residents. To register for a time slot or for more information, click [here](#).

FAFSA Applications

Applications are now open for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Anyone considering post-secondary education for the 2022-2023 school year should file their FAFSA as soon as possible for greater opportunities to qualify for federal, state and institutional aid. Visit [here](#) or the myStudentAid mobile app to start your FAFSA form.



Illinois Rental Assistance

Vulnerable renters and landlords have already received \$505 million of emergency rental assistance, as Illinois leads the nation in distributing this federal funding faster than any other state to help more than 57,000 households. The Illinois Housing Development Authority will open a new round of assistance Dec. 6, and the Illinois Department of Human Services is currently accepting applications for rental assistance. Struggling households can find resources [here](#).

What's Next?

Our office partners with State Representative Maura Hirschauer and co-runs four advisory committees: Environmental and Agriculture, Mental Health, Seniors, and Education. These committees are a limited public forum led by volunteer chairs and seek to create compassionate conversation among the voices of the 25th/49th districts in order to help build our legislative agenda and grow our knowledge in these areas.

On December 10th at 10am our office will be co-hosting our Senior Advisory Committee. To join via Zoom email seniors.49th@gmail.com.

On December 21st at 6pm our office will be co-hosting our Mental Health Advisory Committee. To join via Zoom email mentalhealth.49th@gmail.com.

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.

Be well!

Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District