



ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR OF THE 25TH DISTRICT

Karina Villa, MSW

State Senator - 25th District

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IL 25TH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 10TH, 2022



Dear Friend,

I am sending you all warm wishes from the Capitol in Springfield! Here's a reminder I think we all need in the last winter months that Spring is right around the corner with 40 days remaining till the official start date, marked by the Spring Equinox.

Prairie State Legal Services

On Monday I met with Prairie State Legal Services to discuss all the great services they provide and how I can continue to ensure they receive funding so they can continue to help their clients. Prairie State Legal Services offers free legal services for low-income persons with civil legal issues related to housing, family law, and public benefits. You can learn more about Prairie State Legal Services [here](#) or by calling their West Suburban office at 630-690-2130.



Black History Month

As part of Black History Month, Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin will host virtual interviews on Black excellence at noon every Thursday in February on Facebook, [gbpl.info/fbvirtual](https://www.facebook.com/gbpl.info/fbvirtual). Attendees will learn about what drives Black community members to strive for excellence and celebrate their achievements. Featured guests include Elgin's

Poet Laureate Emeritus Chasity Gunn and Monique Howery, chef and proprietor of Moni's Soul food Fiesta.

Wayne Township Vaccine Event

On February 19th from 10am-2pm there will be a Vaccine clinic at Wayne Township, 27W031 North Avenue, West Chicago, IL. This vaccine clinic is through a partnership with Wayne Township and IDPH and they'll have moderna, pfizer, johnson & johnson and booster shots available. Every person getting vaccinated will receive free hand sanitizer and a bag of nonperishable groceries. You can book an appointment for the event here: <https://events.juware.com/IL-IDPH/05f40c29-1bc1-4b1f-90c7-3a190889c5cb/> or call (630) 231-7173.

Worknet DuPage: A Recovery for All

Worknet DuPage helps DuPage residents not only in job seeking, but also in job training and building skills they need. You can visit their website to learn more and start learning skills to stand out to employers and level up in your career <http://www.worknetdupage.org/>. You can also see all the amazing work they've done to help people recover from the pandemic and excel within their career by looking at their [digital Year In Review report](#) by clicking the hyperlink.

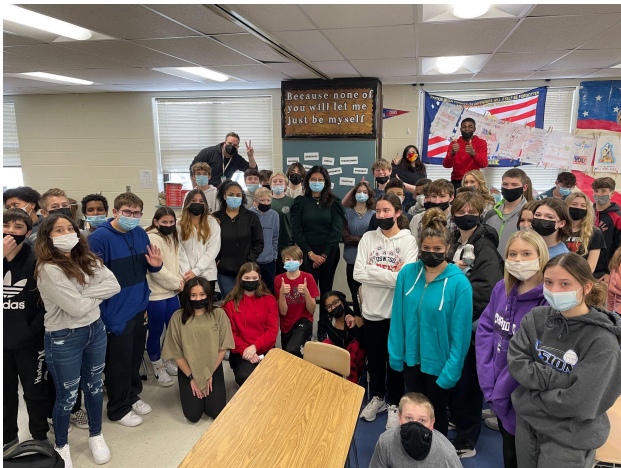
Become a CASA Advocate

Thinking of becoming a CASA Volunteer? Have you heard about our mission and are not sure what serving as a court-appointed special advocate looks like? Join Illinois CASA for a thirty-minute virtual meeting on February 18th at 12 pm to find out more about the role of volunteers who advocate on behalf of children who have experienced abuse and neglect. [Registration](#) is required.

Rotolo Middle School Visit

I got the chance last Friday to visit Rotolo Middle School to talk to 8th graders about the importance of mental health, building relationships, and empathy and tolerance. I always love the opportunity to be able to come in and connect with students, and I found it fitting to talk to them about these mental health related topics as a previous School Social Worker.

If you're a teacher and want me to come in and speak to your class regarding either mental health or government/politics feel free to contact my office to set up a visit at info@senatorvilla.com.



AgeGuide Funding Opportunity

AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois is soliciting Letters of Interest from non-profit and local government organizations qualified to receive Federal/State of Illinois financial assistance grants to provide services for older adults (age 60+) as authorized under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-73) in its 8-county Planning and Service Area consisting of DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties. The service provider must adhere to AgeGuide's General Service Requirements in addition to service-specific requirements. For further information about grant requirements and the application process, visit AgeGuide's webpage: www.ageguide.org/rfp Letters of Interest should be sent to RFPS@ageguide.org no later than **February 16, 2022**.

Share your Story with the WoodStock Institute

The Woodstock Institute is a research and advocacy group that focuses on consumer financial protection and community development. They played a key role in the development of the Predatory Loan Protection Act, which protects vulnerable communities from predatory lenders. To ensure that their work reflects the needs of the community, the Woodstock Institute is looking to hear from individuals who have been impacted by predatory and discriminatory financial practices. If you are interested in sharing your story, more information can be found [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. Our Education Advisory Committee will meet on February 10th at 7pm. Please email education.49th@gmail.com to receive the zoom link and agenda. Our Senior Advisory Committee will meet on February 11th at 10am. Please email seniors.49th@gmail.com to receive the zoom link and agenda. Our Mental Health Advisory Committee will meet on Feb. 15th at 6pm. Please email mentalhealth.49th@gmail.com to receive the zoom link and agenda.

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 and stay warm!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karina Villa".

Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District