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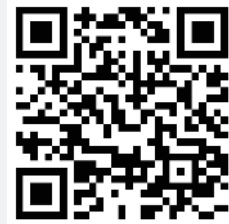
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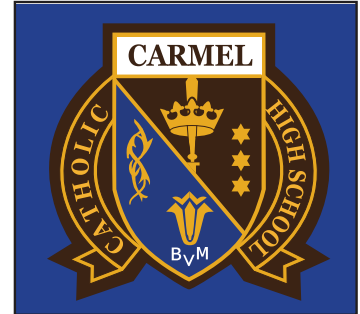
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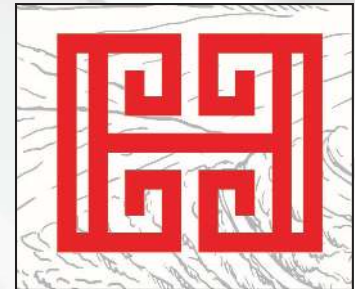
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# DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy New Year, neighbors! I hope you had a great holiday season and were able to spend time with family and loved ones. I always enjoy the energy of the holidays, but I also appreciate the reset that comes with a new year. It's a good time to slow down, regroup, and ease back into routine. Give yourself grace and don't stress too much about those pesky new year resolutions!

Each month, we feature locals on our cover as part of our goal to help readers better connect with the people and community around them. This month, you'll meet The Kolb Family. Be sure to check out their article!

Do you have an interesting hobby, a garden you're proud of, or activities your kids are involved in? Maybe you're new to the area or marking a milestone like an anniversary. These are the stories we like to share. If you know an individual or family who might be interested in being featured, please email our team.

Thank you to our sponsors for making this magazine possible. We appreciate their continued support and hope you enjoy this month's edition of *Libertyville Living*.

*Tiffany*

TIFFANY LAPETINA  
CONTENT COORDINATOR

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# EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT CREATES NEW NATURE PATH AT LAKE MINEAR BEACH

BY MEGAN PICKELL



**A**chieving the rank of Eagle Scout requires perseverance, leadership, and a lasting contribution to the community. Reece Foley, an Eagle Scout candidate, exemplified these qualities through his Eagle Scout service project: the creation of an educational nature path on the east side of Lake Minear.

After identifying an underutilized and overgrown area of the Lake Minear grounds, Reece developed a vision to transform it into a nature trail that would both enhance the landscape and provide an educational experience for visitors. He planned, organized, and led the entire project—coordinating fellow Scouts, securing approvals, and managing the work from start to finish.

Reece presented his proposal to Mike Kerrigan, a volunteer member of the Lake Minear Board of Directors, who immediately recognized the value of the project. “When Reece approached me about his Eagle Scout project, I was immediately onboard,” said Kerrigan. “Reece’s vision and hard work have created a new way for our members to enjoy the beach and grounds.”

The project involved significant hands-on effort and problem-solving. Reece and his team cleared years of overgrown brush, removed trash, and navigated challenging terrain while avoiding poison ivy. To further enhance the trail, Reece incorporated native plantings and installed educational signage to identify plant species, allowing visitors to learn about the local ecosystem as they walk the path.

“Reece is a great lifeguard, and we were very appreciative that he chose Lake Minear for his Eagle Scout service project,” said Board President Brian Stock. “We have a small group of volunteers who help keep the beach running year-round. Reece took a meaningful idea and turned it into a completed project, demonstrating strong leadership and project management skills.”

**The Lake Minear Board congratulates Reece Foley on a well-executed Eagle Scout project and is proud to support his achievement. His dedication, leadership, and commitment to service are evident in the lasting impact this project will have on our grounds and our members.**

Reece’s Eagle Scout project has left a meaningful and lasting contribution to Lake Minear Beach, creating a new educational and recreational feature for members to enjoy for years to come.

Lake Minear Beach has been a cherished part of the Libertyville community for generations. It is a members-only beach open for fishing year-round and for swimming from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Information about 2026 memberships can be found at [www.lakeminearbeach.com](http://www.lakeminearbeach.com) or by emailing [lakeminearmembership@gmail.com](mailto:lakeminearmembership@gmail.com)



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# THE RED CAPE GALA

BY JENNIFER HATTEN

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The Red Cape Gala is our signature fundraiser held every 2 years. This formal event offers a delectable dinner, fun games & prizes, exciting live and silent auctions, open bar, and dancing the night away to the Chris Sarlas Orchestra. What better way to celebrate your love than to give back to kids with cancer? Spend Valentine's Day with the Super Jake Foundation all dressed up and ready to shake what your mama gave you! Grab your honey and join us!

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## THE KOLB FAMILY

BY RICKY AND CLAIRE KOLB  
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE KOLB FAMILY

For the Kolbs, living in Libertyville is defined by one thing: family—both literally and figuratively.

Ricky has spent the majority of his life in Libertyville. He grew up here, attending St. Joseph's grade school and Carmel High School, before heading to Indiana University to study accounting and finance. After graduation, he spent time living in Los Angeles and Brussels, Belgium, before returning to Chicago.

Claire grew up nearby in Northbrook, attended Glenbrook North High School, and also went to Indiana University, where she studied tourism management.

Despite the shared alma mater, the two didn't actually meet until June 8, 2013, at a Chicago Blackhawks game. But while the rest of the stadium was fixated on the ice, Ricky only had one thing on his mind: Claire.

Alas, his affections were not returned. Spurned but undeterred, he persisted and, only three years later, Claire agreed to a date. Nine months later, they were engaged and, in November of 2017, they were married.

By February 2018, Ricky had convinced Claire to move to Libertyville (not a hard sell - it's a eutopia). They bought their first house backing up to Nicholas-Dowden Park. By 2020, with their first son on the way, they realized they needed more space and moved into Interlaken Meadows in March of that year.

It was the perfect time to move. Claire was eight months pregnant and, as they closed on the house, the Illinois shelter-in-place was issued. Three weeks later, their son, Ricky IV (now 5), was born.

Not to be outdone, their daughter Paige (now 4) arrived on Christmas Day, 2021, just as the Omicron surge was peaking.

Finally, in true third-born style, their son Henry aka Hank (age 1), arrived in December 2024. By then, the chaos had subsided. There were no masks and no wiping down groceries, just an easy-going, happy baby to complete the family.

Their children are the absolute center and joy of their world (like 95% of the time), but that's just the beginning of their Libertyville family.

The Kolb family takes the idea of being close-knit to a new level (geographically, at least).

- Ricky's brother, Peter, lives one block away (in the same house his aunt and uncle lived in for 20+ years).
- Claire's sister, Bailey, lives 0.3 miles away.
- Ricky's brother, Donald, lives on Paradise Lane, just two doors down from Claire's parents.
- Ricky's parents, currently on School Street, decided it was too far away, so they recently bought a house on Paradise Lane as well.
- Honorable mention: Claire's cousin Georgia and Ricky's fraternity brother are two blocks away.

The Kolbs are actively recruiting Ricky's sister, Alison, to move back. She is the only immediate family member currently living outside of Libertyville.

The family overlap extends to their careers as well. Claire works at The Nyren Company, a textile distribution business started by her grandfather. She works alongside her mom and her cousin Chase, who also lives in town. Ricky is a Managing Partner at Inspirion Wealth Advisors, the firm founded by his father. He works as a financial advisor alongside his dad and both of his brothers. They have the privilege of working with many wonderful Libertyville families.

Since they work and live so close to one another, they get a lot of family time. They also make time to enjoy what the town has to offer, which is basically everything a family could want.

They love eating out at the restaurants downtown and knowing the servers by name.



Legendary local spots like Bagels by the Book, The Picnic Basket, and Lolos (to name a few) are all part of the Kolb's weekly menu.

Where else can you get a world-class facial at Body Works and then stroll over to The Island for a drink?

Let's not forget about the parks: Independence Grove, Cook, Dowden, Lake Minear—there's a veritable smorgasbord of outdoor options if that's your thing (Ricky will pass).

While Ivanhoe isn't technically in Libertyville, it is widely considered a satellite property of the village. The whole family enjoys spending time at the pool and attending events there throughout the year. Despite a busy work schedule and three young children, Ricky even manages to squeeze in a few rounds of golf each year.

They are also involved in local organizations. Ricky has served on the board of the Michael Matters Foundation for over six years, and Claire serves on the board of the Libertyville Cooperative Nursery School.

Last, but certainly not least, there's the neighborhood Interlaken Meadows, which was ranked the #1 neighborhood in America in a recent poll. The Kolb's neighborhood crew has become extended family. Frat bros, trash bros, basement bros, and real bros—no fake bros—that's the true spirit of Libertyville.

Between three kids, brothers and cousins down the street, grandparents around the corner, and a tight-knit neighborhood,



life is busy. But their favorite memories these days are simple ones, usually involving dance parties at home. For Ricky and Claire, there is simply no better place to have everyone together than right here in Libertyville. After all, it's not where, but who you're with that really matters.



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# GLMV SHOP, DINE, PLAY, Cheers!

BY CAROL LEVIN, GLMV PR/MARKETING DIRECTOR

## Happy New Year GLMV...!

**G**reen Oaks, Libertyville, Mundelein, Vernon Hills (GLMV) Chamber of Commerce wishes all a wonderful and joyous 2026, filled with a mix of happiness, peace, prosperity and everything for which you strive. With a fresh start, the days ahead have an air of excitement and new possibilities. Dream big and cheers for a sparkling new year. Have you made new year's resolutions? If you have difficulty keeping those resolutions, try micro resolutions, commit to one day, week or month at a time, which doesn't require a major change, to best accomplish your goals.

Whether your celebrations involved a glimmering night out, champagne and the countdown from a trendy local venue, or watching the ball drop at home with family, friends, food, fun, the best part of the new year is time spent with your favorite folks for our most memorable moments and memories.

As we bid farewell to the old and welcome the new, we appreciate the support and collaboration we received throughout the past year. Our amazing business community grows as our chamber businesses remain resilient, strong, and dynamic. Together, we organized successful events, fostered meaningful connections to enhance the success of our local businesses, groups, and community. We've added new members, provided valuable services, programs and resources to support our businesses, including partnership with Lake County Workforce Development/Job Center of Lake County, which offers a plethora of business services and resources.

Among proud initiatives: Our 6th Annual GLMV/K Coats for Vets Fall Drive, which through community generosity, collected thousands of coats and winterwear at 50+ locations for Midwest Veterans Closet, a local non-profit that assists veterans in need and their families. Sponsors of this important effort included GLMV and Kildeer Villages, police stations, Wintrust Banks, Shurway Movers, Bennett Chiropractic, Country Financial – Jason Coroneus, American Place Casino and other area businesses. Many businesses also generously contributed to area toy and gift drives to assist local needy families.

With GLMV holiday spirit, camaraderie in the air, we kicked off the season at the Annual Famers Insurance Holiday Kickoff at MainStreet Social - Libertyville, Holiday Jingle, Mingle & Bourbon Mixer at the new Aged In Oak - Vernon Hills, holiday gatherings at Antioch Pizza and Sell A Cow Furniture - Libertyville, and others. GLMV Board of Directors also enjoyed Holiday Luncheon (Margarita anyone?) at Casa Bonita - Libertyville! Great food and great service were enjoyed by all.

Now for some January fun facts: The month of January was named for the Roman god Janus. Janus had two heads, symbolizing one head looking backward and one looking forward. January originally had 30 days until Julius Ceasar added the 31st day. January flower is carnation, birthstone Garnet. In January, we observe Martin Luther King Day, Compliment Day, Oatmeal Month, Make Your Dreams Come True Day, Chinese New Years and others. So, grab some hot chocolate, sit by the fireside, and enjoy. These days can also inspire promotions for businesses, as well.

Although the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is now over, GLMV continues to be a buzz with activity. Village of Libertyville Mayor Donna Johnson welcomes new businesses at ribbon cuttings and attends so many other community events. Mayor Johnson always shares valuable inspirational words and encouragement with the new business owners.

Professionals continue to refer to the chamber and join forces, build relationships, and grow business. Our events draw businesses of all types and sizes, including after-hours mixers, luncheons, and our long-standing GLMV C4S free network group with discussions and presentations on timely topics of interest. The 4th Monthly Bingo/Trivia at Tighthouse Brewery - Mundelein is always a win-win with prizes and fun.

Save the dates for our GLMV Membership & Recognition Gala - February 26 at Dave & Busters - Hawthorn Mall, Vernon Hills. Gala Chair Michael Looby, Carmel Catholic High School, encourages all businesses to participate in this signature event. In addition. The Multi-Chamber Spring Extreme Block Party Free Family EXPO & Taste of the Town - March 14 at Doubletree Hotel- Mundelein, GLMV Annual Golf Outing - July at Pine Meadow Golf Club, and Oktoberfest in Libertyville - September at Mickey Finn's backlot are also ahead.

With our record late fall fluffy snowfall, we saw an early winter wonderland. How fun to spend time outside, build a snowman, go sledding, skating, and enjoy all the winter activities our area has to offer. Libertyville is the perfect destination with excellent recreational, dining, merchants, and village happenings all year round.

Seeking a local business, service, resource, or business event? Your GLMV Chamber members can help! Of course, remember to shop, dine, and enjoy local all year round, and consider the sponsors of this publication, as well. For more information, visit [www.glmvchamber.org](http://www.glmvchamber.org) or 847-680-0750, [info@glmvchamber.org](mailto:info@glmvchamber.org).

Here's to a fantastic 2026, take plenty of pics, and make it your best year yet.

# WINTER LANDSCAPING... “Snow-Scaping”

BY JIM WOLLNEY HORTICULTURALIST ARCHITERRA, INC.



A fresh layer of snow can be beautiful, but for many of us it also means snow removal. As you clear your front walk, notice whether there are bushes or shrubs in the way where you typically pile snow. If so, this might be an area worth redesigning. For example, shrubs could be replaced with perennials—plants whose foliage dies back in winter but returns in spring.

From the comfort of your warm home, look outside:

Do you see snow resting on evergreens, shrubs, or trees with persistent red berries?

Do you have a small sanctuary where birds and other wildlife can rest in a sunny, protected spot?

If you notice undesirable views or wish you had more winter beauty, now is a great time to take photos and make notes for redesigning areas and installing new plants in 2026. For instance, an evergreen could be planted to hide a utility pole or a neighbor’s shed. Ornamental grasses are an inexpensive way to screen utility boxes and add beautiful “movement” to the winter landscape.

Another consideration when “snow-scaping” is how snow naturally drifts or where piles accumulate along the driveway or front walk. Have a little fun outdoors—create temporary snow seat walls or snow benches where you can sit and enjoy your

landscape. Shoveling paths around the house can also spark ideas for future walkways and sitting areas to be added to your landscape design.

Children especially love playing in the snow. Notice where they run, play, or make snow angels—these open, sunny spaces are usually areas where turfgrass lies dormant beneath the snow. This is an excellent time to sketch out new garden beds. Draw lines in the snow (or even shovel an edge) to imagine borders where summer flowers could be planted. These new bed lines not only make mowing easier but also create beautiful spaces for plants and resting places for birds.

Unfortunately, de-icing salts can damage landscapes, but there are ways to reduce or prevent this. Pelletized gypsum helps counteract the negative effects of winter salt. Typically, two applications are recommended along driveways and road edges where salt is applied: one in early winter before the ground freezes, and another in late winter as the soil begins to thaw. Gypsum binds with clay particles, improving soil structure and drainage. It is inexpensive, easy to apply, and particularly useful in parkways where snow tends to be piled.

So, the next time it snows, and you find yourself heading out to shovel, take a moment to snow-scape—imagine new landscape features and create future spaces that will bring you beauty and enjoyment at home.

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# WHY DO WE STRUGGLE TO REST?

BY XNIDER

Rest and leisure are terms that are commonly used but rarely actually attended to. We typically think of rest as sleeping and it never seems like we have time to get enough sleep. Leisure is a much less used term than rest but it might be a more helpful way to think and talk about rest and rejuvenation. We often think of rest and leisure as doing something completely passive because we are taking a break from our active lives. The truth is that we often feel more drained when we sit and watch endless hours of television streaming or internet videos. Prioritizing and learning how to do activities that are considered leisure can be a quicker way to feel rested.

Half of the battle is deciding to take time for leisure and then discerning the activities that are actually restful for you. If you are an avid reader, you can prioritize reading each day, which stimulates your creativity. Maybe you love to do puzzles, so sitting down to do a puzzle for 20 minutes gives you a quiet time to think each day. Running or going on a walk isn't something that we would typically consider a restful activity, but exercise often brings us more life and is good for our physical health as well.

Your hobbies can often be turned into rest and leisure if they are properly prioritized. We are hesitant to prioritize rest because it doesn't seem productive and we don't feel like we have time. Instead of taking a nap next time, choose to do something that you love and see if it gives you more energy. Don't be afraid to prioritize the activities that bring you joy! They can help you be a happier mother, father, brother, sister, coworker or friend.



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## STEP THREE, UNDERSTANDING CHILD SUPPORT



BY MICHONE J. RIEWER OF STRATEGIC DIVORCE

**W**hen I meet a new client, they often tell me the same thing, they just want to be fair. They want their children cared for, their finances to make sense, and their future to feel stable again. That's exactly what The Strategic Divorce Process was designed to do.

After the Allocation Judgment is entered, the Court order that determines parenting time and decision-making for children, we move on to the Marital Settlement Agreement. This is where we discuss the financial details: 1. Child Support, 2. Spousal Support, and how to divide assets and debts.

We always explain that we wait to discuss child support until after parenting issues are finalized. It's not just a matter of timing; it's about fairness. The amount of time a child spends with each parent plays a major role in how child support is calculated. Once we know where the children will sleep and how time is divided, we can then calculate child support.

Child support in Illinois is based on a formula, one that looks at income, parenting time, health insurance, and a dozen other variables that many parents don't realize matter. Beyond the monthly payment, there are also shared expenses: sports fees, braces, school trips, and medical costs that aren't covered by insurance. These are usually divided based on income, often 60/40, so each parent contributes a share proportionate to their income.

Something as simple as a change in overnights can have a large impact on the child support calculation. Parents who have less than 40 percent of the overnights often pay nearly double what they would if they had more time with their children. It's a reminder of how intertwined finances and family time really are.

Taxes and maintenance play a part too. The parent with more overnights usually receives the tax exemption for each child, which can make a meaningful difference in net income. Spousal support (also known as maintenance or alimony) counts as income for the parent who receives it and reduces the net income of the parent that pays it, and therefore, affects the child support calculation as well.

Most child support obligations end when a child turns 18 or graduates from high school, but Illinois law allows for continued support in special situations. For example, contributing to college expenses or caring for an adult child with a disability may result in a financial obligation after age 18. We handle those matters with the same thoughtful planning and fairness as everything else.

Once all the relevant information is known, income, parenting time, health insurance costs, maintenance, and tax considerations, we then use a child support calculator to determine the guideline amount under Illinois law. This calculator is not something we guess at or approximate. It is a tool that allows us to apply the statute accurately and transparently, using real numbers rather than assumptions. When child support is calculated after all variables are finalized, parents can have confidence that the result is fair, predictable, and grounded in the statute.

With child support resolved, families are ready to move to the next step of the process, the calculation of spousal support. Like child support, spousal support follows an equation dictated by Illinois law. In Step Four of The Strategic Divorce Process, we look closely at income disparity and length of the marriage. As with every step, the goal remains the same, creating stability, reducing conflict, and allowing both parties to move forward with clarity and confidence.



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# ON THIS DAY IN AMERICAN HISTORY: JANUARY

BY MADISON FARKAS

**January 1st:** Ellis Island begins processing immigrants (1892).

**January 2nd:** The FBI obtains convictions for 33 members of a German spy ring, the largest espionage case in US history (1942).

**January 3rd:** Alaska is admitted as the 49th state (1959).

**January 4th:** Solomon Northup regains his freedom after being kidnapped and sold into slavery. His memoir, *Twelve Years a Slave*, later becomes a national bestseller (1853).

**January 5th:** In response to widespread advocacy by labor organizers, the Ford Motor Company doubles its minimum wage and cuts its shifts to eight hours. Seeing an increase in productivity and profits, most of its competitors later follow suit (1914).

**January 6th:** Supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump storm the Capitol to disrupt certification of the 2020 election, forcing the evacuation of the US Congress (2021).

**January 7th:** The first American commercial bank, the Bank of North America, opens (1782).

**January 8th:** The Democratic Party of the United States is organized (1828).

**January 9th:** Steve Jobs introduces the original iPhone at a conference in San Francisco (2007).

**January 10th:** The first great Texas oil gusher erupts at Spindletop in Beaumont, Texas (1901).

**January 11th:** Surgeon General Dr. Luther Terry publishes a landmark report on the health hazards of smoking, sparking worldwide anti-smoking efforts (1964).

**January 12th:** The New York Jets defeat the Baltimore Colts to win Super Bowl III, considered one of the greatest upsets in sports history (1969).

**January 13th:** A false emergency alert warning of an impending missile strike in Hawaii causes widespread panic (2018).

**January 14th:** The Human Be-In takes place in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, prelude to the Summer of Love (1967).

**January 15th:** A wave of millions of gallons of molasses released from an exploding storage tank sweeps through Boston, killing 21 people and injuring 150 (1919).

**January 16th:** The Senate ratifies the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement as a replacement for NAFTA (2020).

**January 17th:** The Volstead Act goes into effect, marking the beginning of Prohibition (1920).

**January 18th:** Washington, D.C., Mayor Marion Barry is arrested for drug possession in an FBI sting (1990).

**January 19th:** 74 percent of all television sets in the United States tune into *I Love Lucy* to watch Lucy give birth to her son (1953).

**January 20th:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed for the first time (1986).

**January 21st:** Hundreds of thousands of protesters gather for the Women's March on Washington (2017).

**January 22nd:** The Supreme Court delivers its decision in *Roe v. Wade*, legalizing elective abortion in all fifty states (1973).

**January 23rd:** The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducts its first members (1986).

**January 24th:** Serial killer Ted Bundy is executed by electric chair (1989).

**January 25th:** Investigative journalist Nellie Bly completes her circumnavigation of the globe in a record-breaking 72 days (1890).

**January 26th:** Nadya Suleman, known as "Octomom," gives birth to the world's first surviving octuplets (2009).

**January 27th:** Thomas Edison receives a patent for his incandescent lamp (1880).

**January 28th:** Space Shuttle Challenger disintegrates after lift-off, killing all seven astronauts on board (1986).

**January 29th:** Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" is first published under his name in the *New York Evening Mirror* (1845).

**January 30th:** North Vietnam launches the Tet Offensive against the forces of South Vietnam, the US, and their allies (1968).

**January 31st:** Doug Williams is the first Black quarterback to both start and win a Superbowl (1988).

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# STEP UP YOUR DAY: 20 UNIQUE WAYS TO BOOST YOUR STEP COUNT!

Submitted by Lucinda Hahn

Getting those daily steps in is one of the easiest ways to improve your health, but sometimes it feels like a chore. For homeowners juggling work, family, and house maintenance, finding time for a dedicated walk can be tough. Here are some creative ways to boost those steps, right from your home and in our wonderful local community!

## At Home and Indoors

**Walk While Talking:** Pace around the house or yard during all your phone calls, personal and professional.

**Commercial Break March:** Stand up and march in place, do lunges, or walk a circuit around your living space during TV commercials or credits.

**Kitchen Prep Steps:** Take a lap around your kitchen or dining area every time you wait for water to boil, toast to pop, or food to heat in the microwave.

**Park Farther Away** (in your own driveway!): If you have a long driveway, park your car at the end of the driveway instead of right in front of the door.

**The One-Minute Rule:** Set a timer for once an hour while working from home. When it goes off, take a five-minute walk.

**Mighty Mailbox Run:** If your mailbox is at the end of the driveway, don't grab the mail as you're driving in. Park the car in the garage and then walk back to get the mail.

**Post-Dinner Power Stroll:** Commit to a 10- to 15-minute walk immediately after dinner. This aids digestion and gets your steps in before day's end.

## In the Neighborhood

**Loop Challenge:** Map out a specific 500-step loop around your block and commit to doing it first thing in the morning or right after work.



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**Phone a Friend:** Instead of meeting for coffee or lunch to catch up, take a stroll together. You may find it even easier to open up while walking side by side.

**Podcast Power:** Choose a favorite podcast and commit to walking for its entirety.

**Visit Neighbors on Foot:** If you need to drop off a dish, return a tool, or just say hello, always walk to your neighbor's house instead of driving.

**Take a Walking Tour:** Many cities offer guided tours, as well as self-guided options, with a focus on regional history, architecture, or food.

**Join a Walking or Hiking Club:** Having a tribe makes walking socially fulfilling. Check local event calendars to find out if there are any groups in your area.

**While Running Errands**

**Park Farther Away:** Quit searching for the closest parking spot. Take one at the far end of the lot — and see your steps add up!

**Box Store Detour:** When shopping at a large department or home improvement store, walk a lap along the perimeter aisles before getting your items.

**Return Your Cart All the Way:** Skip the closest cart return and walk it back to the store entrance.

**Steps to Miles**

The number of steps in a mile varies from person to person based primarily on their height and walking speed, which determine stride length. However, here is the general average and a helpful conversion chart for typical walking:

Steps	Approximate Miles (Walking)
500	1/4 mile
1,000	1/2 mile
1,500	3/4 mile
2,000	1 mile



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# PUTTING YOUR AGING PARENTS' WISHES FIRST

SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL SCHACHNER

**A**s your parents grow older, it may be time to talk with them about financial and aging issues, which may involve difficult conversations.

You'll want to be careful how you approach this. Mention ahead of time that you'd like to talk to them about their future and reassure them that you want to understand their wishes, so their affairs will be taken care of as they would like.

If your parents are agreeable, choose a comfortable location and ask whom to invite (or not invite). Then, think about how to open the conversation, preferably not with what they want to do with their money, as this could be interpreted as your

seeking information about your inheritance or being skeptical about their financial decisions. Instead, build a broader discussion about their vision for their aging years. A series of shorter conversations may allow you to cover topics more comfortably rather than trying to solve everything at once.

Try to address these areas:

- Health care – Seek to learn whether your parents have established appropriate health-related legal documents such as a health care power of attorney, which gives someone the authority to make decisions about their medical care if they become unable, and a living will, which

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spells out the extraordinary medical treatments they may or may not want.

- Independence – As people age, they may begin to lose their independence. Have your parents considered options for long-term care, such as an assisted living community, a nursing home or a home health aide? If they plan to receive support from family members, do your parents' expectations match yours?
- Financial goals – Focusing on the personal and financial aspects of the legacy your parents want to leave can be a valuable conversation. Have they updated their will or other estate documents, such as a living trust? Have they created a durable power of attorney for a trusted family member to make financial decisions for them if they become incapacitated? Do they have the proper beneficiary designations on their insurance policies, retirement plan and bank accounts? If you position these issues around your parents having control over transferring their assets, rather than curiosity over “who will get what,” you’ll more likely have a productive conversation.
- Last wishes – You’ll want to learn whether your parents have instructions in their will about their funerals and last wishes. Express that you or another close family member should know who is responsible for making sure their wishes are met in a timely fashion.

Money, independence and aging can be sensitive topics. You don't have to go at it alone, though – enlist help from another close family member. Or, if your parents work with an attorney, financial professional or other trusted advisor, consider asking if they're interested in having them participate in your talks. You might even be able to introduce your parents to one of your advisors.

In any case, keep talking. These conversations can be challenging, but if handled correctly can be of great benefit to your parents and your entire family.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Michael Schachner. 115 W Church St, Suite 101, Libertyville, IL 60048. (847) 367-4240. michael.schachner@edwardjones.com.*

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## HIRE360, CONSTELLATION, AND VEHICLES FOR CHANGE AWARD THREE VEHICLES TO LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRADUATES

BY MARY KATE FRANZ

**CHICAGO, IL** — Three aspiring trades professionals received life-changing support today as Vehicles for Change, with support from Constellation, awarded vehicles to candidates identified through HIRE360, Chicago Women in Trades, and Richland Community College's, pre-apprenticeship and workforce development programs across Illinois. The event, held at Liberty Auto in Libertyville, marked the first time Vehicles for Change—a Maryland-based organization renowned for empowering economically challenged families through car ownership and technical training—expanded its work into Illinois.

The vehicle recipients include a HIRE360 Clean Energy

Construction Trades Pathway Program graduate and U.S. Army veteran preparing to apply to IBEW Local 134; a first-year Chicago Women in Trades mill cabinet apprentice caring for her parents; and a Richland Community College trainee who persevered through personal challenges to complete the program and pursue a new career path.

“This is what partnership in action looks like,” said Jay Rowell, Executive Director of HIRE360. “Our candidates show up every day with grit, dedication and a commitment to building a better life for their families. Removing barriers like transportation is essential, and we’re grateful to Constellation and Vehicles for



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Change for helping us make that possible.”

The event featured remarks from leaders across all participating organizations, walkthroughs of each refurbished vehicle, and emotional presentations as the keys were handed to the three recipients. Attendees highlighted the critical role transportation plays in accessing job sites, apprenticeships, and training programs—particularly for early-career tradespeople balancing work, family responsibilities, and demanding class schedules. The celebration underscored how public-private collaborations can remove barriers and accelerate pathways into family-sustaining careers.

“Constellation is proud to support Vehicles for Change’s expansion into Illinois and, in doing so, lift up these hardworking graduates as they take the next steps into rewarding trade careers,” said Ray Stringer, Vice President and Chief Inclusion and Workforce Development Officer, Constellation. “Access to reliable transportation is often the difference between opportunity and setback. Through our collaborations with Vehicles for Change, HIRE360 and Chicago Women in Trades on workforce development efforts through our Powering Change initiative, we’re ensuring more people can fully participate in the clean energy economy and the trades workforce of the future.”

“Vehicles for Change is excited to launch this new pilot in partnership with Constellation Energy and Liberty Auto Group,” said Martin Schwartz, President of Vehicles for Change. “Vehicles for Change brings our highly successful car ownership program to the region. This program will provide life-changing vehicles to residents, enabling them to access high-paying, career-leading jobs, as well as offering new opportunities for their children.”

To learn more about HIRE360, visit: <https://hire360chicago.com>.

To learn more about Constellation’s Powering Change workforce development initiative, visit: <https://www.constellationenergy.com/our-impact/community/powering-change-investment.html>

**About HIRE360**

Launched in January 2020, HIRE360 is an industry-led, community-focused nonprofit ensuring that our future is built by all the communities that call Illinois home. As a workforce intermediary, we identify, recruit, skill up, and help community members navigate the union apprenticeship process. Our approach fosters a direct connection between employers and unions to develop workforce recruitment and training programs that meet the specific and timely employment needs of the construction industry. Our construction industry business development program creates wealth and contracting opportunities in Illinois’s communities by investing capital, time, and mentorship to help neighborhood businesses grow and thrive. Learn more at [www.HIRE360Partners.org](http://www.HIRE360Partners.org).



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# EMBRACE YOUR AWESOMENESS!

BY AMANDA GRIFFIN

**LIFE IS A ROLLERCOASTER FULL OF UPS AND DOWNS AND TWISTS AND TURNS.** We live in a world that constantly bombards us with messages about who we should or should not be. Because of that, it's not uncommon at times to lapse into doubting ourselves, our abilities, and our self-worth. But let's kick those negative thoughts to the curb because it's time to take a moment and remember this simple truth: You are enough, just as you are! In fact, you're more than enough—you're on the path to awesomeness! Whether it's a new year or midyear, instead of setting resolutions that may feel like a burden, why not set intentions that empower you, starting with embracing your awesomeness? Check out these nuggets of wisdom and inspiration to help get you solidly in step on your journey.

**First things first, don't compare yourself to others.** Your journey is unique to you and that's what makes it so incredible. Remember, you're not running a race against anyone but yourself so celebrate your achievements, no matter how small. You've overcome challenges, learned valuable lessons and grown as a person. Your achievements are a testament to your strength and determination, and that's worth celebrating!

**Every stumble is an opportunity to learn and grow.** Mistakes? Look at them as stepping stones on your path to awesomeness! Don't be too hard on yourself. Embrace those imperfections; they are what make you wonderfully, beautifully human and uniquely you.

**Consider your quirks and idiosyncrasies your secret sauce!** They add flavor to your life and make you one-of-a-kind. Be proud of your uniqueness and strive to stand out rather than blend in, no matter what society tells you. Your uniqueness is what sets you apart and makes you unforgettable.



**Embrace your passions!** Whether it's dancing in your living room like nobody's watching or geeking out over your favorite hobbies, your interests are what make you shine and life worth living. Embracing what you love brings joy and authenticity into your life.

**Surround yourself with positivity.** Kick those negative vibes to the curb and bask in the glow of good energy. Seek out friends who lift you up, engage in activities that make you happy and always remember that laughter is the best medicine.

**Self-care is non-negotiable.** Take time for yourself, whether it's a bubble bath, a good book or a long walk in nature. Practice kindness, both towards others and yourself because acts of kindness, no matter how small, can have a profound impact on all involved. Treat yourself with the same compassion and understanding you would offer to a dear friend. Let kindness be your guiding light, spreading positivity and warmth wherever you go.

Lastly, remember that life is a journey, not a destination, and it's full of surprises—that's the nature of rollercoasters! Embrace change with adaptability to navigate the ups and downs because they all contribute to the incredible story of your life and sometimes the unexpected can lead to the most remarkable experiences. Never forget that you are the author, the hero and the star of this adventure and you are becoming more awesome every day!

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# New Year's Resolution

BY RACHEL KOEPKE

As the new year gets underway, we might start losing traction on our New Year's Resolutions. Maybe it's a loss of motivation, time or accountability. Whatever the reason, studies show that less than 25% of people stick to their resolutions for more than a month. Do you want to be part of that statistic? If not, here are a few tips to help you stay on track.

**START SLOW** – There's no shame in starting small. Rather than being overwhelmed by the enormous task in front of you, be realistic and accomplish one small step at a time. Take it day by day.

**WRITE IT DOWN** – This makes your goal tangible, ingraining it in your brain. This keeps you motivated and conscientious of your actions. Tape it on your mirror so you read it every morning. Hang it up at work. Create a fun graphic and save it as the screensaver on your phone. Use whatever method works best for you.

**STAY ACCOUNTABLE** - Find a buddy to hold you accountable of your resolution. Are you committed to drinking more water? Have them check in from time to time and make sure you're following through. Better yet, do it together and hold each other accountable.

**RELAX** - Changing your lifestyle can be a tricky thing. If you find yourself backtracking rather than making progress, just take a deep breath and turn around. Don't give up if you make a mistake. Instead, use that as a turning point to get back on track. No one is perfect, and it's okay to make mistakes.

**REWARD YOURSELF** - As you accomplish your goals along the way, be sure to celebrate! Go see a new movie in theatres or buy a new hat. Find some way to prove to yourself that you are a winner and you are achieving great things!

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# WINTER HOME SAFETY AND HEALTH TIPS FOR SENIORS

BY BETH GRUSENSKI



## AVOID SLIPPING AND FALLING.

Planning ahead – by ensuring that your everyday shoes have good traction and that you have the proper supplies to treat slippery walkways – will go a long way. To avoid falling risks inside, place towels at each entryway so that melting boots or wet shoes don't create new fall hazards.

## DRESS IN LAYERS AND SET THE HEAT AROUND 68°F.



Staying warm is one key to health and safety. Layering ensures that you're wearing enough clothes to stay warm. Layers can always be taken off, but forgetting to layer could cause not only discomfort but even injury. For winter climates, be sure to have a

warm coat and proper coverings for all extremities.

## STAY MOVING AND (IF POSSIBLE) GET OUTDOORS.

When the sun is shining, if you're able, get outside! If the weather demands staying indoors, you can always find a workout for a person of your ability level. Everything from high-intensity workouts to chair exercises can be found online. Check your local senior center for fitness classes, activities and gatherings – even virtual.

## CREATE A CHECK-IN SYSTEM

Ask your family to create a call list where a different family member calls every day to check-in. Formulate a neighborhood check-in system where everyone, old and young, can watch out for one another.

## TAKE CARE OF AUTO MAINTENANCE ON TIME.



Before winter begins, make sure your oil has been changed and your tires are in good shape. It's also a great time to check that your car is stocked with an emergency blanket, a first aid kit and a few non-perishable snacks in case of an accident or delay.

## STOCK YOUR REFRIGERATOR AND PANTRY.

Be sure that healthy meals are available. When family, friends and neighbors ask how they can help or what you need, suggest a few

meals for your freezer that will make quick, easy and wholesome meals. If you enjoy cooking, consider meal delivery kits that package ingredients in the quantities you need to feed one or two people.

## CHECK ALL DETECTORS REGULARLY.



At least every time the clocks change, but ideally every two or three months, check (or have someone else check) your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

## KEEP A CONTACT LIST OF EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS.

Be sure that everyone (family, friends, neighbors, clergy, etc.) who would need to be contacted in case of an emergency is listed.

## USE SMART TECHNOLOGY TO LET OTHERS HELP.



Different technologies can let family help even from afar. Anyone with the proper access to the smart control technology can check the thermostat, make sure your garage was closed and double-check that the doors were locked before bed. Voice-activated

technology can also help you get in touch with loved ones if an injury ever impairs your movement.

Hire help or say yes when someone asks if they can regularly shovel snow or salting your sidewalks. Avoid activities that could lead to a fall or injury.

Let someone know when you're going out and when you return safely.

Although it sounds counter intuitive, asking for help and accepting it will make it easier to enjoy life and enhance your independence (both now and in the long run).



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# UPCOMING EVENTS JANUARY 2026

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11**

EXAMINING HISTORY THROUGH RECIPES: CROFTON COOKBOOKS  
@ Dunn Museum - Libertyville  
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Dive into the Dunn Museum's collections to explore two 1880s Crofton family cookbooks that were used at Fort Sheridan. Learn more about the Crofton family's time station there, and hear about staff's experiences testing out some of the recipes.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**

ENGAGING SPEAKERS  
@ Holiday Inn Express - Vernon Hills  
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Speak your way to more business, presentations, networking, build your authority, and make a bigger impact in the world.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 21, 28**

RESUME ASSISTANCE  
@ Job Center of Lake County - Waukegan  
10:00 PM - 12:00 PM

Every Wednesday, starting promptly at 10:00 AM.

Resume Assistance is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is limited.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16**

PUDDLE OF MUDD  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST THE OUTFIT  
@ Genessee Theatre - Waukegan  
8:00 PM

Post-grunge band Puddle of Mudd has been rocking the world's stages since its breakout album Come Clean in 2001. Tickets required.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16,30**

MOVIE MATINEE  
@ Aspen Drive Library - Vernon Hills  
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Free screenings of popular and acclaimed movies.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 17**

GLMV C4S NETWORK GROUP  
@ Holiday Inn Express - Vernon Hills  
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Free 1st/3rd Friday monthly network group for business professionals. Includes presentations, business shares, introductions, Hansa Coffee/Nothing Bundt Cake treats.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17**

STONE TEMPLE PILOTS  
@ Genessee Theatre - Waukegan  
8:00 PM

Stone Temple Pilots roared onto the scene in 1992 with their raucous debut album, Core, and never looked back. Tickets required.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20**

P4R (PROFESSIONALS FOR REFERRALS)  
NETWORK GROUP  
@ Panera Bread - Mundelein  
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Help grow each other's personal and business networks in a trusted setting.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20**

AN EVENING WITH AUDREY HEPBURN:  
PORTRAYAL BY LESLIE GODDARD  
@ Virtual Zoom  
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Audrey Hepburn shares stories of war, fame, and love in a heartfelt interview at her Swiss home. A Living History Portrayal by historian Leslie Goddard, Ph.D.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 23**

REVISITING CREEDENCE  
@ Genessee Theatre - Waukegan  
8:00 PM

For years, Dan McGuinness and Kurt Griffey toured the world with original members Stu Cook and Doug "Cosmo" Clifford. Now, the torch has been passed as they continue CCR's musical legacy. Tickets required.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 23**

1619: THE JOURNEY OF A PEOPLE  
@ College of Lake County Mainstage Theatre - P107 - Grayslake  
10:00 AM. & 7:30 PM

Using various musical forms including hip-hop, jazz, and blues, this fabulous musical theater production commemorates the struggle for equality and celebrates the story of America's African sons and daughters.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 24**

MARIACHI HERENCIA DE MÉXICO - "LA NUEVA GENERACIÓN TOUR"  
@ College of Lake County Mainstage Theatre - P107 - Grayslake  
8:00 PM - 10:30 PM

This 2x Latin GRAMMY®-nominated ensemble pushes the boundaries of traditional mariachi music. Simultaneously honoring the past, celebrating the present, and creating the future,

this will be an electrifying and unforgettable night of Mexican music and culture. Tickets required.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 26**

GLMV/MCC BINGO/TRIVIA COMMUNITY NIGHT  
@ Tighthead Brewery - Mundelein  
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Let's play Bingo! Fun community Bingo/Trivia 4th Monday monthly, prizes, food and beer available,

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27**

JOB INTERVIEW MASTERY: LED BY UDEMY INSTRUCTOR IMRAN AFZAL  
@ Virtual Zoom  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

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**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28**

LUNCH BREAK MINDFUL ENERGY  
@ Cook Memorial Library - Libertyville  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Discover how energy, mindfulness, and transformation can fuel personal growth and professional success in this dynamic and inspiring session. Presented by Mark Ratfelders, Energy Coach.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30**

COLIN MOCHRIE AND BRAD SHERWOOD  
@ Genessee Theatre - Waukegan  
7:00 PM

Armed with only their lightning-fast wit, Whose Line Is It Anyway? stars Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood are back and Asking for Trouble! Tickets required.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30**

THE SECOND CITY: LAUGH HARDER, NOT SMARTER  
@ College of Lake County Mainstage Theatre - P107 - Grayslake  
7:30 PM

Celebration of legendary American comedy. This show will feature a hilarious array of classic comedy sketches, songs from the company's rich history, and the signature brand of irreverent improv that The Second City is famous for!



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PAW **PET OF THE MONTH** PAW  
**SCRAPPY**

BY MIKE FALLOS OF MCCLURE'S GARAGE

**O**n December 15, 2016, Scrappy made an entrance no one at McClure's Garage will ever forget.

That morning, as Jack Fallos unlocked the shop like he always does, he opened the front door—and a small cat launched out of the garbage can beside the entrance! Without hesitation, Scrappy darted inside and disappeared under the showroom stage, clearly choosing the garage as his safe haven.

Over the next few days, he stayed hidden. The team set out food, treats, and water, hoping to earn his trust. At night, the security cameras caught him exploring the shop. But the moment anyone stepped inside—poof—he was back under the stage.

It took nearly a week of patience, quiet encouragement, and kindness before Scrappy began venturing out to Tricia Fallos and the crew. Once he decided they were his people, he let his guard down little by little.

To make sure he wasn't a missing pet, McClure's called the Gurnee Police Department, who scanned him for a microchip and documented him. With no chip and no reports of a lost cat, one thing became clear: Scrappy had chosen his new family.

The team brought him to the vet for a full checkup, vaccinations, and everything he needed to start a healthy new chapter. From that moment on, he wasn't just a visitor—he was officially part of McClure's Garage.

And it turns out Scrappy was born for the job.

Today, Scrappy holds the highly prestigious—and very permanent—title of Employee of the Month. He patrols the lot during the day, knows exactly when to come inside each night, supervises from his favorite napping spots, and eagerly accepts treats, scratches, and admiration from customers. His personality has won over more hearts than any mechanic ever could.

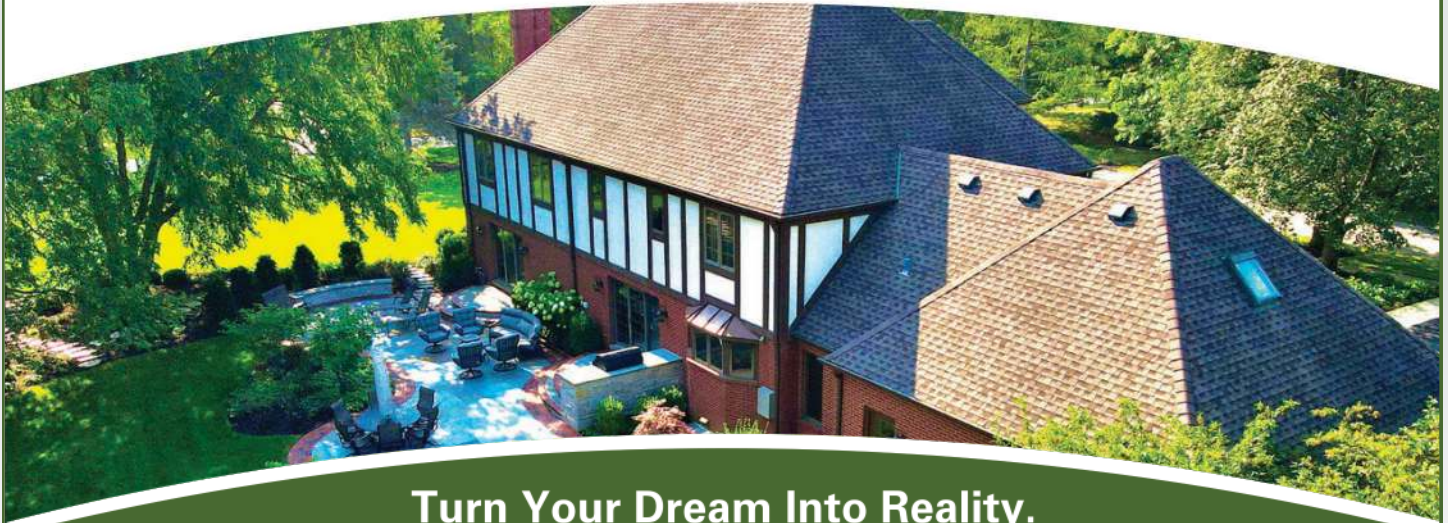
While no one knows exactly how old he is, everyone agrees on this:

Scrappy is a blessing they never expected—God's little gift that jumped into their lives nine years ago.

And if you check McClure's Garage on Google or Yelp, you'll see for yourself: Scrappy is the star of countless customer reviews.



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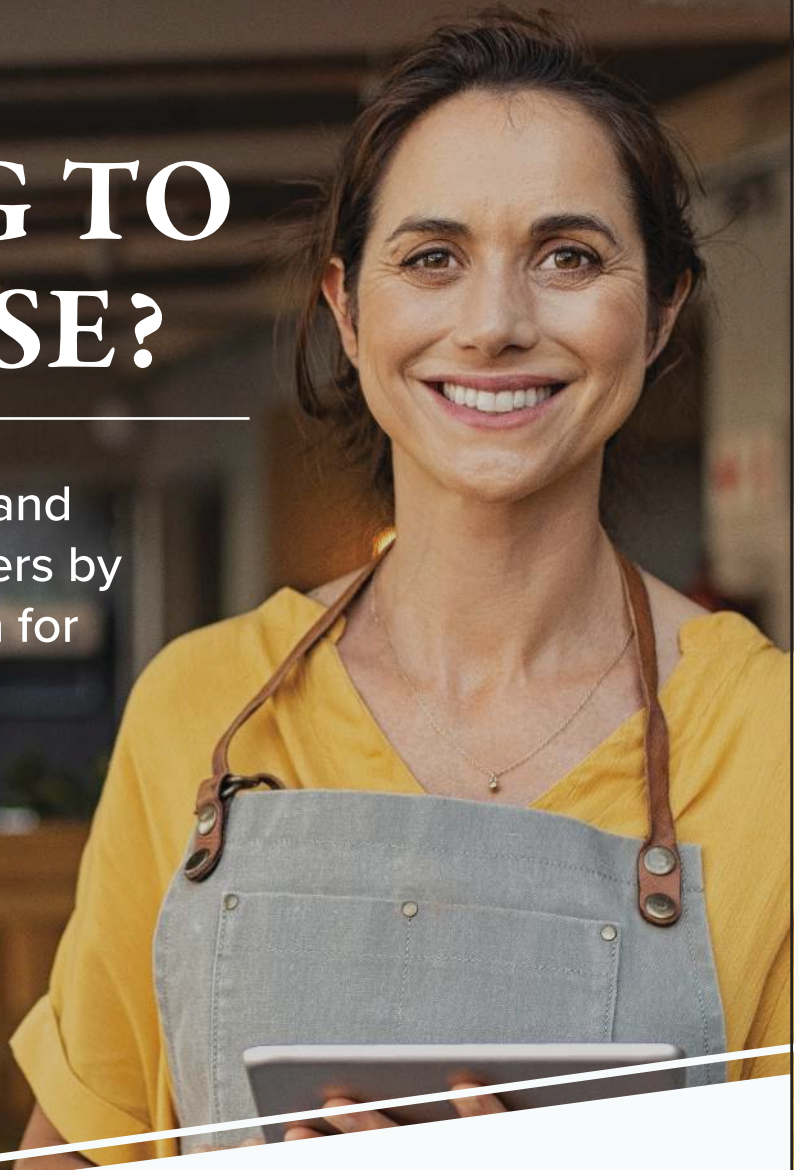
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# SIMPLE TIPS FOR A MORE ORGANIZED HOME

BY BETH DUNPHY

**H**appy New Year! This is the time of year everyone makes resolutions to be better and do better. Whether you want to read more, shed a few pounds, or take better control of your home, let's use this time to make some goals. If you're anything like me, there are areas of your home that could use some attention. Between the mudroom, the closets, and the pile of "stuff" that always accumulates on the counter, I want to start the year with a plan to keep those things tidier. There are some very simple things you can do to stay on top of household chores and have a more organized home.

**1. SET A SCHEDULE.** I absolutely loathe spending hours and hours cleaning. Instead of taking an entire day, commit to cleaning one smaller thing each day of the week. Then by the time you get to Friday, your whole house is cleaned, but you don't feel like you've wasted an entire day. Maybe you start the week off right and do laundry on Mondays, then sweep and mop floors on Tuesdays, Wednesday is bathroom day, Thursdays are vacuum day, and Friday is

tidy up day in all the rooms of the house. Spreading the tasks out like this makes your cleaning week much more manageable.

**2. NAME THE SPOTS.** With little kids, mine used to tell me they didn't know where things went, so that's why they didn't put them away. Now, I name things so I can say, "put that in the silver file basket" or "that goes in the big toy closet" or "dirty masks go in the mask basket", etc. Instead of the broad command of "put that away", give them a specific location that they are familiar with so they can complete the task correctly.

**3. ALPHABETIZE & COLOR CODE.** This may seem like a no-brainer, but using these common methods of organization can really make things run easier in your home. File away papers in organized, color-coded hanging folders, group together your canned goods in categories, and alphabetize your spice cabinet. These simple things help you find what you need faster and don't cause stress when you open those cabinets.

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4. **GRAB SOME BASKETS.** Many home decor stores or even large department stores have amazing organizational baskets available. These can be used for anything from your pantry to your toy/book closet and beyond. Maybe put a small one under your microwave where junk seems to gather. Even if it's miscellaneous items, having them confined to a basket makes things look more put together. This is also helpful in a child's room to put toy cars in one basket, Legos in another and books organized in baskets according to size. Organize your jewelry in a similar way, with small trinket baskets.

5. **DONATE DAY.** We like to do this once a quarter, but especially before or after Christmas when so many new things have come into our home. Get your kids involved to find things around their rooms and toy rooms that they don't play with anymore and everyone has to "fill a bag" to donate or give away. Besides the obvious large donation places, try calling women's shelters or even local elementary schools to see if they could use your unwanted toys and books. Cleaning out and giving away to someone who can use your things is so rewarding.

Organizing your home can be a daunting task. Start small with a simple task or a simple closet to feel the success of organization. Once you experience the feeling of a tidy job well done, hopefully, it's contagious and you can use these tools to keep your home more organized in this new year.





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BY BROOKE WALLACE

# SPOTLIGHT ON AMERICAN PLACE CASINO'S SEASON OF HOPE TREE DECORATING CONTEST CHAMPIONS - A SAFE PLACE



Late November, American Place Casino began its transformation into a Winter Wonderland. As guests made their way to the Airstreams, they were greeted by elegantly decorated trees, with each ornament representing a story, a mission, and a purpose.

For the second year in a row, American Place Casino hosted the Annual Season of Hope Tree Decorating Contest to highlight local charitable organizations. Six local nonprofits were chosen to decorate a tree that represents their organization and its purpose within the community. For the 2025 season, the participating nonprofits included PADS Lake County, HACES, Beacon Place, Roberti Community House, Veteran's Path to Hope, and A Safe Place. AP Rewards Members voted on their favorite holiday tree from November 16 through December 6 by casting their votes in the organization's mailbox.

A Safe Place was named the winner of this year's Season of Hope Tree Decorating Contest. As the grand prize winner, American Place Casino donated \$7,500 to the organization. An additional \$1,500 was given to the other five nonprofits who participated.

A Safe Place is a recognized 501(c)(3) listed under Lake Country Crisis Center for Prevention & Treatment of Domestic Violence. Through their programs, they provide survivors with resources to rebuild their lives, prevent future abuse, and educate on how the community can work together to end issues such as domestic violence and human trafficking.

Programs and services at A Safe Place include an emergency 33-bed shelter with food, clothing, support, and case management for families to begin a new chapter. Permanent, traditional, and scattered housing options are also available for survivors to help them with life skills and empower them to live independent, abuse-free lives.

Outside of housing, A Safe Place also offers services such as courthouse advocacy, community and prevention education, individual and group counseling, intervention programs, and a family visitation center.

The giving back doesn't stop with the Season of Hope for American Place Casino. Visit [americanplace.com/american-place-cares/](http://americanplace.com/american-place-cares/) to see what new initiatives are taking place.



## AMERICAN PLACE CASINO UPCOMING EVENTS

BY BROOKE WALLACE



### STEVE HYTNER LIVE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE AT AMERICAN PLACE CASINO

**Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 8:00 PM**

Beloved character actor and comedian, Steve Hytner, best known for his iconic role as Kenny

Bania on Seinfeld, is set to bring his sharp wit and crowd-pleasing energy to The Lighthouse at American Place Casino.

### PAUL RODRIGUEZ LIVE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE AT AMERICAN PLACE CASINO

**Saturday, January 24, at 8:00 PM**

Paul Rodriguez is a pioneering Mexican-American comedian and actor who rose to prominence in the 1980s with humor rooted in identity, immigration, and cultural life in East Los Angeles.

### LONI LOVE LIVE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE AT AMERICAN PLACE CASINO

**Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 8:00 PM**

Loni Love is a multi-award-winning comedian, host, actress, author, and philanthropist whose dynamic career spans global stand-up performances, hit TV shows, and celebrated radio work.

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# LAUGHS AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

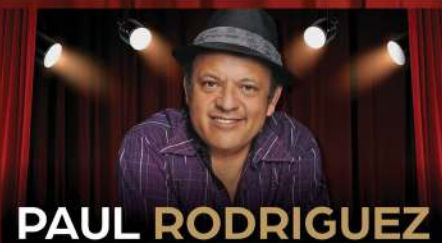
## UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT



**STEVE HYTNER**

**STEVE HYTNER**  
Saturday, January 10

Comedy veteran Steve Hytner takes the stage at Laughs at The Lighthouse with his signature humor and decades of TV and stand-up experience. Prepare for a night of laughs from one of comedy's most recognizable faces.



**PAUL RODRIGUEZ**

**PAUL RODRIGUEZ**  
Saturday, January 24

Comedy legend Paul Rodriguez brings decades of laughs and storytelling to Laughs at The Lighthouse. From Born in East L.A. to stand-up stages across the country, Paul's unique humor blends sharp observations with cultural insight. Don't miss a night with one of comedy's most iconic voices.



**LONI LOVE**

**LONI LOVE**  
Saturday, February 7

Loni Love, Emmy-winning co-host of The Real, brings her fearless humor and infectious energy to Laughs at The Lighthouse. With a career spanning stand-up, TV, and advocacy, Loni delivers laughs that are smart, bold, and unforgettable.



**TONY ROCK**

**TONY ROCK**  
Saturday, July 11

Comedian, actor, and producer Tony Rock brings his quick, charismatic comedy to Laughs at The Lighthouse. A veteran host and stand-up favorite seen on HBO, BET, and NBA TV, Tony always delivers a crowd-pleasing show you won't want to miss.

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