



# insight

roscoe village chamber of commerce newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 16 www.rvcc.biz Winter 2015

# The Habit of Giving

only enhances the desire to give.

- Walt Whitman



## 2015-2016 CHAMBER OFFICERS

**President  
Ron Kinn**

Skyline Insurance Agency

**Vice President  
Chad Jensen**

D Spa & Pet Boutique

**Treasurer  
Mike Green**

Village Tap

**Co-Secretary's  
Guy Grundhoefer**

Dun-Wel Printing

**Kim Martorano**

First Centennial Mortgage

**Directors**

**Lisa Alvarez**

Healing Foundations

**Frankie Andrae**

Village Paperie & Gifts

**Laura Davis**

Fixture

**Mike Hall**

Chicago Veterinary Emergency  
& Specialty Center

**Colleen McGovern**

M2 Boutique

**Alekka Sweeney**

Give Me Some Sugar

**STAFF**

**Executive Director  
Mary Markarian**

**Project Coordinator  
Stacy Thomas**

**Bookkeeper  
Chandra Barzvi**

The Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce is a non-for-profit organization committed to representing Roscoe Village Businesses and to advancing the growth and prosperity of the Roscoe Village neighborhood.

**RVCC is located at:**

3201 North Wolcott Ave. Chicago, IL 60657

www.rvcc.biz • info@rvcc.biz

p • 773.327.5123 f • 773.935.3581

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we move into fall and prepare for the holidays it is a good time to reflect back on this year's accomplishments. First, our Chamber membership continues to grow at a strong pace. In addition to expanding the benefits and services provided to our members, we have actively recruited new businesses to the neighborhood. Next, the Roscoe Village Wine Stroll has had a great second year growing considerably to over 350 participants. This event has become a wonderful way for our local businesses to meet many of the new and existing residents as well as individuals from the surrounding neighborhoods. Our main fundraising event, the Roscoe Village Burger Festival, has continued to expand down Belmont and saw an estimated 25,000 attendees enjoy a great sampling of the best burgers in Chicago along with some top notch music over the 2 days. It has truly become one of the premiere food and music festivals in the city. Finally, and one that is most dear to our hearts, is the ability of the Chamber of Commerce to find ways to fundraise and contribute back to our community. From our "Shop for Schools" event that benefited 17 local schools, to the 7 non for profit organizations that received proceeds for their volunteer work at the Burger Fest, to the Chamber sponsored Roscoe Village PAWS event that found homes for 75 dogs and cats, we have had a wonderful year and we look forward to a bright future.

Happy Holidays and please remember to support Roscoe Village by shopping local!

Ron Kinn, President, RVCC

Skyline Insurance Agency, Inc.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome Neighbors, Friends and Members—

The Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce is privileged to serve the Roscoe Village business and residential community for the last 19 years! We have endeavored to bring numerous and consistent programming initiatives that highlight how special Roscoe Village is and contributes to our local economy. This year we have focused on bringing an SSA to Roscoe Village and we hope to complete this task with City Council approval in October 2016, and a program start state in 2017. We like to thank everyone who has signed in support of the SSA and helped us move Roscoe Village forward!

WinterFEST is upon us once again, and this year we're celebrating 10 years! We hope you'll bring your family out for our annual tree lighting, amid an ever growing crowd to sing carols and enjoy a 25 foot tree illuminated with newlights, decorations, plus late night shopping. Sunday brings 20+ children's activities for your tots to enjoy and a trolley to take you to every stop!

Thank you for being our neighbor and making Roscoe Village your home.

With gratitude,

Mary Markarian, Executive Director, RVCC

# A NOTE FROM THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

The Holiday Season is a very special time of year. It's a time for family, friends, and festivities! But it's also a time when busy people forget to be careful about their personal safety and property. As a result, people can become victims of burglaries, thefts, frauds and con-games.

Everyone could use extra money around the Holidays. Criminals thrive on unsuspecting and innocent victims. If you were a criminal who wanted some quick cash, how would you get it? Steal a purse or wallet from a holiday shopper? Solicit donations for a fake charity? Use someone else's credit card or charge account?

## Don't Make it Easy for The Thieves!

**BY USING THESE CRIME PREVENTION TIPS, YOU CAN HELP PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR VALUABLES FROM HOLIDAY CRIME!**

- Give your home that "occupied appearance" by leaving various lights on.
- Let a trusted neighbor know if you are going to be gone for longer periods of time. Return the favor and create a "neighborhood watch"!
- Don't use short cuts through alleys or walkways. Always use well lit and traveled areas.
- Always keep a hand free for emergencies!
- Shop with friends or relatives. There is safety in numbers!
- If you must take a purse, carry it close to your body with the clasp nearest you.
- Cash should be carried in a front pants pocket. Do not display large sums of cash.
- Never leave your purse in a shopping cart or on a counter unattended while you shop.
- Transfer valuables to the trunk of your auto before you reach your destination.
- Never leave valuables in plain view in your auto.
- Keys should never be carried in your purse. Keep your keys in your pocket.
- **Remain alert at all times!**
- **Stay off your cell phone- Don't advertise your property!**

- Don't walk around with headphones.
- When returning to your auto or home, have your keys in your hand ready.
- Use the "panic or alarm button" on your key chain if you feel fearful or suspicious.
- Be alert for suspicious persons loitering in parking lots.
- Be careful about strangers "following" you into your building! Don't let strangers in!
- Always lock your car even if you are only going to be gone for a few minutes.
- Lock your doors immediately upon entering your vehicle and always drive with your doors locked.
- **Don't have packages delivered to an empty house!**
- **If your residence is equipped with an alarm, ARM IT!**
- During the winter months, make sure your sidewalk gets shoveled! **Fresh snow absent of footprints screams, "No one is home!"**

We wish you and your loved ones a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

19th District Community Policing Office  
CAPS019district@chicagopolice.org  
(312) 744-0064

IT'S NEVER BEEN BETTER TO SHOP LOCALLY. LOCAL AGENT SINCE 1993!

# SURGES

CLIFFORD SURGES AGENCY, INC.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

1935 W BELMONT, CHICAGO, IL 60657 773-472-5000

KENNETH LUDWIG  
CHICAGO



ROSCOE VILLAGE'S HOME FURNISHINGS STORE

FURNITURE, LIGHTING, RUGS, FABRICS + ACCESSORIES

REGISTER ONLINE FOR OUR

**VIP ROSCOE VILLAGE**

20% DISCOUNT

Kenneth Ludwig Chicago  
2217 West Roscoe Street  
Chicago, IL 60618

312.467.0530  
kennethludwig.com



## St. Benedict Preparatory School

Explore Our Unique PK-12 Catholic,  
College Prep Campus!

St. Benedict Preparatory School, at Irving Park Road and Leavitt Street, is the only PK-grade 12 Catholic, co-educational, parish school in the Archdiocese of Chicago. We offer a unique college prep program in a welcoming, inclusive, faith-filled community. Tours of SBPS are conducted weekly or scheduled at your convenience:

- Preschool and Kindergarten through Grade 5 tours take place on alternating Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM.
- Secondary School tours (grades 6-12) are conducted by appointment.

Contact us at: [stbenedict.com](http://stbenedict.com) or 773-539-0066

SBPS High School Test Date:  
Saturday, January 9, 2016 8 AM



## The Gift That Keeps on Giving

By Wendy Wollenberg

"That small town feel is alive and well here," observes Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce President Ron Kinn. "Most residents and business owners alike are sold on Roscoe Village after taking a simple stroll through the neighborhood. On any given block you are going to find children playing, neighbors conversing, people walking their dogs or someone shopping locally - all of whom know each other, greet each other and are interested in what is happening in their community. It truly is the 'Village Within the City.'"

In a time when people might not know who is living next door, especially in a city the size of Chicago, a tangible sense of community is alive and well in Roscoe Village, a unique urban enclave where neighbors not only know each other, they look out for each other. Nowhere is this feeling of cooperation more evident than in Roscoe Village's annual lineup of charitable events and activities. Throughout the year, successful fundraising events such as Burger Fest, Shop for Schools and Wine Stroll all give back directly to the Roscoe Village community, fostering the feeling of civic pride and communal collaboration in this special neighborhood.

## The Power of the People

The Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce works hand-in-hand with local businesses and nonprofit organizations to organize its jam-packed calendar of annual fundraising events. These partnerships ensure people feel committed to making a real difference in their community rather than just writing a check and wondering where the money goes.

"We remember where the Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce was less than a decade ago with little financial resources," says Kinn, who also owns Skyline Insurance Agency on Belmont Avenue, which he opened in 2000. "Since then we have been

fortunate to develop the very successful Burger Fest event. Shortly after the growth of the festival we became committed to bringing in nonprofit groups to man the gates or work the beer booths and by doing so share in some of the proceeds of the event."

For this year's Burger Fest, the Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce enlisted the help of volunteers from Chicago Canine Rescue to staff one of the beer booths, and from Tree House Humane Society, Alive Rescue, Common Pantry, Lakeview Pantry and Child's Voice, who manned the entrance gates. This onsite participation generated almost \$12,000 in donations for these worthy charitable organizations.



*Friends of Audubon President Josephine Washuk and Merchant Coordinator Candace Peterson*

Another prime example of the power of community is the Chamber's successful Shop for Schools project. The 7th annual event took place in October at such popular local stores as Cinnamon Boutique, Fixture, Roscoe Village Bikes and Little Threads. The shop owners contributed 20 percent of all sales to local schools as selected by each shopper. Seventeen schools benefitted from this impactful one-day community event, which resulted in approximately \$63,000 in total sales and almost \$13,000 in contributions. The Chamber gave an additional \$6,000 donation to the top five participating schools: Audubon, Saint Andrew, Saint Clement, St. Benedict and Lane Tech. The first Roscoe Village Shop for Schools event took place in 2009 with sales of \$19,000 – that's an increase of 230 percent in just six years.

This is the power of a charitable economy. Stores increase sales and their customer base. Schools benefit from much-needed contributions. Shoppers walk away with the knowledge of having helped their community. Cinnamon Boutique owner

Emily Helfrich puts it this way: "We really feel it is important to participate in the Shop for Schools event because we know how much schools depend on fundraising to have enough money to keep important programs, wonderful teachers and new technology available to their students. Contributing to fundraisers is a great opportunity for us to help give awareness to certain issues as well as to demonstrate that we care very much about our community."

The top grossing Shop for Schools contender three years running, Audubon, has an all-volunteer, parent-run organization (Friends of Audubon) that raises money for teaching and support staff, school-wide music and art instruction, technology equipment, software and improvements to Audubon School's building and campus. Candace Peterson, the group's merchant coordinator and a Roscoe Village resident, is a supporter of Shop for Schools as well as the array of other activities that enrich the neighborhood.

"Our kids look forward to the fun family activities all year including the Spring Brunch and Egg Hunt, the Halloween Parade and Winterfest, along with all of the street festivals in our neighborhood," she says. "Personally, I have enjoyed getting friends together to attend Shop for Schools and the It's in the Bag shopping events, as well as the Roscoe Village Wine Stroll. I have also participated in selling items at the community-wide Garage Sale."

## Community Pride

The Chamber takes part in a variety of high-profile initiatives and projects that continuously make Roscoe Village such a wonderful place to live. For example, the Roscoe Village Chamber Board allocated funds to beautify Belmont Avenue in 2015. Wrought iron planters with four seasonal plantings now enliven this central neighborhood gathering place.

Chamber President Kinn emphasizes infrastructure when galvanizing a community. "We definitely expanded our services to a broader base in and around Roscoe Village as our membership has grown by 25 percent. Internally the Chamber has invested in a management software system, updated its computers, expanded our social media presence and added another employee to assist in Chamber services. We also now offer our members additional marketing vehicles such as a biweekly promotional newsletter."

Kinn speaks to the future of the Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce and the community it serves. "An important initiative that the Chamber is currently spearheading that will greatly enhance our business districts is a Special Service Area (SSA)," notes Kinn. "An SSA will provide funds for consistent essential services such as additional trash bins and frequent trash removal, clearing of snow from walkways, graffiti removal and beautification and green initiatives, just to name a few."



*RVCC planter on Belmont Ave.*


"The Roscoe Village SSA will be a shared investment among property owners who are located only on our commercial streets, which will help to ensure that our 'Village Within the City' remains vibrant, unique and sustainable for years to come," he says.

Candace Peterson of Friends of Audubon echoes that sentiment. "There is a strong bond with the people who live in our community. People who reside in Roscoe Village want to make the neighborhood great and keep it thriving," she says. "They want to support the schools, the shops and the restaurants, and contribute to the organizations, fests and activities that keep our community going strong. People who live here want to help each other and watch our neighborhood flourish. Roscoe Village truly is a village within the city, and I am a very proud resident."



# EAT • SHOP • WALK • ON ROSCOE!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 5-9 PM**






- 
- 2217 ROSCOE** **KENNETH LUDWIG CHICAGO:** Holiday Cheer, Cocktails & Mimi's famous homemade Christmas cookies and 25% off on all holiday decoration pieces
- 2213 ROSCOE** **CONEXION SALON & SPA: TREE LIGHTING AT 5 PM**
- 2211 ROSCOE** **DSPA & PET SERVICES:** FREE doggy daycare for first 12 pets PLUS cocktails & tamales
- 2207 ROSCOE** **MERINGUE:** Glögg, tasty treats, and a Holiday TRUNK Show
- 2203 ROSCOE** **M2 BOUTIQUE:** Jingle Mel's pop up shop - providing unique and fun Christmas & Holiday gifts PLUS gift wrapping services
- 2154 ROSCOE** **SPEX:** Bon Vivant Eyewear trunk show, treats/refreshments, fun activities and giveaways
- 2142 ROSCOE** **ROSCOEBOOKS:** Free wine and light bites
- 2139 ROSCOE** **ORANGETHEORY FITNESS:** Free full week classes to anyone that registers & new signup gets discount on OTBeat heart rate monitor
- 2138 ROSCOE** **CRUSH ON ROSCOE:** Trunk Show w/ Amanda Shell PoPtimistic Art paintings, & hand-painted goodies
- 2132 ROSCOE** **JOHN'S PLACE:** Coffee cocktails for \$5 and select glasses of wine for \$5
- 2118 ROSCOE** **KICKIN':** 15% off entire purchase + cocktails, mocktails & appetizers. 50% discount off baby gift w/ purchase of a Mom Fashion piece/gift, limit 1
- 2113 ROSCOE** **AUGUST HOUSE STUDIO:** In Plain Sight and wine and cheese 6-9pm
- 2108 ROSCOE** **FIXTURE:** Koval whiskey tasting  
**VILLAGE PAPERIE:** "You are Beautiful" artist Matthew Hoffman's entire line available for purchase
- 2104 ROSCOE** **CINNAMON BOUTIQUE:** Holiday Bubbly tasting with LUSH and candy cane mystery discounts
- 2058 ROSCOE** **GRATITUDE HEART GARDEN:** Holiday specials, cookies and chai
- 2055 ROSCOE** **VILLAGE TAP:** Festival selection of Holiday Beers
- 2040 ROSCOE** **THE PRINCESS CLUB:** Raffling free dance classes with every purchase! Hot chocolate & cookie bar
- 2039 ROSCOE** **THE DENIM LOUNGE:** 10% off + seasonal cocktails
- 2037 ROSCOE** **A PIED:** Wine, cheese and desserts - 10% off store, scarf with purchase
- 2033 ROSCOE** **LITTLE THREADS:** Little Gloria "Mini Me" Trunk Show! (*not affiliated with American Girl*)
- 2016 ROSCOE** **ROSCOE VILLAGE BIKES:** Tip Beer tastings from our mechanics
- 2008 ROSCOE** **VOLO RESTAURANT & WINE BAR:** \$1 oyster and \$2 Pork Belly Happy hour 5-7pm, 30+ wines starting @ \$6 & full menu till 11pm

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1-5 PM

## WINTERFEST STOPS ON ROSCOE

- 2256 ROSCOE  **HERITAGE PHARMACY:** Future pharmacists of Roscoe Village, stop in to make your own chapstick! Kids and adults welcome
- 2255 ROSCOE  **MUSICAL MAGIC:** HO HO Holiday Tunes & Bubbles Dance Party 0-6 years. Sing-along concerts running every half hour beginning 2pm, last concert at 4:30pm
- 2236 ROSCOE  **HELIOS CENTER FOR THE MOVEMENT:** Read and move with Horatio Moves! Story times 1:30 until 4:30pm on the hour, followed by a fun movement session
- 2232 ROSCOE  **LUSH WINE AND SPIRITS:** FREE Holiday Wine Tasting, 2pm-5pm
- 2217 ROSCOE  **KENNETH LUDWIG CHICAGO:** Ornament making for the children with designer fabrics & trims. Holiday Cheer cocktails for the adults
- 2213 ROSCOE  **CONEXION SALON & SPA: SANTA'S COTTAGE, 1PM-5PM**
- 2211 ROSCOE  **DSPA & PET SERVICES:** FREE doggy daycare for first 12 pets PLUS dog treat decorating for kids with snacks & cocktails for adults
- 2203 ROSCOE  **M2 BOUTIQUE:** Jingle Mel's pop up shop - providing unique and fun Christmas & Holiday gifts PLUS gift wrapping services
- 2142 ROSCOE  **ROSCOEBOOKS:** Cookies and cider
- 2139 ROSCOE  **ORANGETHEORY FITNESS:** Surprise bags and spin the wheel for prizes
- 2118 ROSCOE  **KICKIN:** 10% off purchase including custom jewelry + blankets. Meet Frosty & make snowman treats to eat
- 2113 ROSCOE  **AUGUST HOUSE STUDIO:** Family Birdhouse Painting seminar, 2pm-5pm
- 2108 ROSCOE  **FIXTURE:** Candy samples from local confectioners  
**VILLAGE PAPERIE:** "You are Beautiful" artist Matthew Hoffman's entire line available for purchase
- 2058 ROSCOE  **GRATITUDE HEART GARDEN:** Holiday specials, cookies and chai
- 2040 ROSCOE  **THE PRINCESS CLUB:** Photos with Nutcracker's Sugar Plum Fairy, FREE camp raffle + prizes crafts
- 2039 ROSCOE  **THE DENIM LOUNGE:** Holiday cookies
- 2037 ROSCOE  **A PIED:** Gingerbread cookie decorating - 20% off Accessories
- 2033 ROSCOE  **LITTLE THREADS:** Face painting and winterfest goodie bags  
**SECOND CITY NANNIES:** Face painting and balloon twisting
- 2016 ROSCOE  **ROSCOE VILLAGE BIKES:** Create recycled Bike parts ornaments
- 2005 ROSCOE  **KITSCH'N:** Complimentary Hot Cocoa & S'mores from 2-5pm, brunch served until 3pm full bar til 5pm

## WINTERFEST STOPS ON BELMONT

- 2332 BELMONT  **STATE FARM INSURANCE:** Meet and Greet with Elsa and Anna from Frozen
- 2205 BELMONT  **GIVE ME SOME SUGAR:** Holiday cookie decorating
- 2129 BELMONT  **ALEX'S MUSIC STUDIO:** Instrument Petting Zoo
- 2059 BELMONT  **UNICOI ART STUDIO:** Design your own paper bag GingerBread house and decorate cards
- 1902 BELMONT  **UNIVERSAL WELLNESS SOURCE:** Holiday ornament + snacks from juiceRX

Visit Santa  
at Conexion Salon & Spa  
1pm-5pm

Must Do's  
for Sunday

Listen for the Carolers, 2pm-4pm  
The Loyola Silhouettes

Horse Drawn Sleigh  
Roscoe & Seeley  
1pm-5pm

Trolley Hop to all the  
WinterFest Stops, 1pm-5pm

# MEET THE NEW LANE TECH PRINCIPAL, KATHRYN ANDERSON



Dear Roscoe Village Business Owners and Residents,

**It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself** as Lane Tech's newly appointed principal. Serving formerly at Lane as an assistant principal,

coordinator of the gifted 7th and 8th grade academic center program, and biology teacher, I am honored to take on this new role to continue to guide and support our students in their successes in school and beyond.

With the year already in full swing, we are excited by the great accomplishments already taking place in our classrooms. Embracing the new "tech" at Lane, students are taking advantage of high-tech and contemporary courses such as innovation and creation lab, biotechnology, and printmaking. Meanwhile, our students continue to excel and win awards and acknowledgements for their work in our extraordinary art, music, and journalism courses, as well as in our Advanced Placement program – the largest in the nation! Outside of the classroom, our athletic and competitive academic teams continue to uphold the moniker "school of champions," with individual first place finishes in track, tennis, debate, and math, as well as team wins in regional play for track and soccer, thus far.

In order to ensure our school continues to stand out in the district and state, my areas of focus for the remainder of the year include improving instructional technology in our classrooms, enhancing support for college and career

planning, developing community partnerships for student internships and school programs, and enhancing public relations to inform school stakeholders about school successes and encourage participation in school events. Through these initiatives, it is my goal to provide our students with the knowledge and skills to accomplish great things at Lane and beyond.

The great accomplishments at Lane would not be possible without the extraordinary teachers, staff, parents, and community support. To support our students in the classroom, our teachers have earned grants through Donors Choose, Alumni Association, and 2nd Century Foundation, as well as partnered with Google, IDEX, and Dyson for innovative new course curriculum and resources. Meanwhile, our Friends of Lane parent group has donated \$170,000 towards our new 1:1 technology initiative, which will be rolled out this year through the collaborative efforts of teachers, students, and parents. Lastly, our community members have been true supporters as they have not only donated money and time at Lane, but have also cheered alongside us at special events including the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Kerry Wood Cubs Field with Alderman Pawar. We truly appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to seeing you at the next Lane or community event!

Sincerely,  
**Principal Kathryn Anderson**  
Lane Tech College Prep  
keanderson@cps.edu  
773.534.5400



**When I say "good,"  
you say "neighbor."**

**Chris Hoskinson, Agent**  
2332 W Belmont Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60618  
Bus: 773-348-8700  
www.hoskinsonagency.com

**Now that's teamwork.**  
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7



P097314.1

State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL



**CPA CLARKE**  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTING  
*Your local source for all tax & accounting services*

Susan Clarke has been a practicing CPA for over 20 years, specializing in executive taxes and small to mid-sized business tax and accounting.

*Give us a call, we'd love to help!*

773.525.4489 [clarkepublicaccounting.com](http://clarkepublicaccounting.com) 1929 W Belmont

**Roscoe Village  
BurgerFest**

**July 9th, 10th 2016**

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**SHOCKTOP  
OysterFest**

**September 10th, 2016**