



March
 EDITION

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Welcome to...

Sofia Hurtado	Police	PT Records Specialist
Scarlet Romero	Police	FT Records Specialist

Around Town Highlights

The Barn Steakhouse

NOW OPEN!
 1900 First Street | 847-926-7373

Capture the Heart of HP Photography Contest

Submissions Open Through March 8

Shamrock Mandala Paint N Sip

Lynfred Winery
 March 4 | 5:30pm
 1823 St. Johns Avenue

NWA Chicago Live Pro Wrestling

March 6 | 7:30—10pm
 Studio One Events
 1799 Green Bay Rd.

Indoor Winter Farmers Markets

Fridays & Saturdays through April 25
 10:30am—2:30pm

Community Blood Drive

March 20 | 10:30am—3pm
 City Hall—1707 St. Johns Avenue

View more Highland Park events [here!](#)

Employee Anniversaries

Last Name	First Name	Dept.	Title	Years
Fabbri	Brian	Fire	Firefighter	30
Zegan	Paul	PW	Water Plant Operator	27
Mendoza	Gregory	Police	Police Officer	25
Prete	April	Police	Police Officer	25
O'Neill	Joe	PW	Deputy Director of PW	23
Duchak	Amanda	Police	Police Sergeant	20
Smith	Cory	PW	Water Plant Operator	18
Vargas Herrera	Lisa	PW	Bus Driver	15
Cumba	Andrew	Police	Police Officer	11
Miller	Benjamin	PW	City Forester	11
Pacocha	Michael	Fire	Firefighter	9
Barnes	Nick	CMO	Human Resources Mgr	5
Mohanchandra	Archana	CD	Building Division Mgr	5
Delgado	Jose	PW	Maintenance Worker	4
Jason	Erin	CMO	Assistant City Manager	4
Johann	Jessica	Police	Police Officer	4
Hatfield	Tim	PW	Facilities Technician	2
Mistretta	Anthony	CD	Planner	2
Elder	Jamie	CMO	Business Dev. Manager	1
Ford	Parker	CMO	Admin Program Spclst	1
Shimanski	Jacob	Fire	Firefighter	1
Vrtis-Bentz	Samantha	CMO	Risk Manager	1

Happy Retirement!



Happy Retirement

BRIAN FABBRI

Please join us in congratulating Brian Fabbri on his retirement and in expressing our sincere appreciation for his 30 years of dedicated service to the Fire Department.

We are truly grateful for his commitment, professionalism, and the lasting impact he has made on our community.



2026 March Sleep Challenge: Go to bed early and earn 25 WIN points! “Getting a good night’s sleep is incredibly important for your health. In fact, it’s just as important as eating a balanced, nutritious diet and exercising.” ([Health Line](#))

- Participate in the March Sleep Challenge on the CHC Wellbeing app starting **March 1**.
- Log on to <http://app.chcw.com> and access your sleep tracker on the “Challenge & Trackers” tab. Press the “+” button to log your sleep.
- To earn your reward, log your sleep from now through March 31 and maintain an average of 7 hours per night.

Coaching Calls: Do you require coaching calls? To review if you require coaching calls, log in to the CHC app and click the “Rewards Level” button in the top left corner. From this screen you will be able to see to whether or not your coaching call requirement has been satisfied. If “Engage with a Health Coach” is checked, you do not require coaching calls OR you have successfully completed your coaching calls. If the “Engage with a Health Coach” is *not* checked (meaning the requirement is not yet satisfied), it means that you still require coaching calls. You should schedule your initial coaching call via the “Health Coaching” button on your home screen.

Did You Know?: You can earn points by watching videos in the CHC app? Learn & Earn Webinars (15 points each) can be accessed at any time, limit 2 per month. eLearning (5 points each) can also be accessed at any time, no limit per month, maximum of 30 points total. To access these point opportunities, log in to the CHC app and click “Improve Your Health” on the left menu. Click the Webinar or eLearning video of your choice. Points will automatically be applied to your account following completion of the video and accompanying questions.

New Participants – Join the WIN Program!

If you’re not currently enrolled in the WIN program but want to participate, the February Biometric Health Screening Event is your opportunity to join. Visit [CHC Wellness](#) and use Program Code **7092Cit189** to register your account. Once registered, schedule your health screening to complete enrollment. Discounts for new participants will take effect once biometric results are confirmed.

Messenger Bulletin Board

Vaccine Pop-Up Clinic (Ages 65+) - City Employees Welcome!



Date: Monday, April 13

Time: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Highland Park Senior Center

Vaccines available: COVID, RSV, Tetanus, Shingrix, and Pneumonia

The CDC recommends an additional COVID-19 dose for adults age 65 and older, as well as individuals who are immunocompromised (generally 6 months after your last dose).

To register, please call the Senior Center at 847-432-4110.

Protect yourself and stay up to date!

What is America250?

In 2026, the United States will celebrate its 250th anniversary, marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. America250 is a nationwide initiative to reflect on our history, honor our communities, and look ahead to the future.

How is Highland Park participating?

The City of Highland Park is joining communities across the country with special programs and events, including:

- The [America250 City Art Poster Project](#), inviting residents of all ages to design a poster representing what America250 means to our community
- Community celebrations and cultural events
- Educational and historical programming
- Opportunities for residents of all ages to get involved

This year-long celebration highlights our shared history and what makes Highland Park special.

Visit enjoyhighlandpark.com/america250 to learn more and explore all the ways you can participate in 2026.



Let's celebrate 250 years together!

Messenger Bulletin Board



Calling All Pet Lovers!

In celebration of National Pet Day (April 11), we'd love to feature your furry (or feathered!) friends in the April Messenger!

Send us your favorite photo with your pet, and we'll share the cuteness with the City team.

Please submit your photos to hr@cityhpil.com and help us celebrate the pets who bring so much joy to our lives!

Public Works Brings the Super Bowl Spirit!

Public Works showed off their team pride by wearing their favorite football jerseys to celebrate Super Bowl LX!

Great energy, great camaraderie, and a fun way to celebrate the big game. Way to go, Public Works!



Tuition Reimbursement Reminder

Looking to further your education? The City's Tuition Reimbursement Program is available to eligible full-time employees with at least one year of service and who are in good standing.



- Courses must be job-related
- Pre-approval is required before the course begins
- Reimbursement is grade-based

Be sure to submit your request form in advance and turn in your grade report and receipts after completion.

Full program details, eligibility requirements, reimbursement limits, and forms can be found in the [Employee Handbook](#) on the employee website.

Please reach out to your Supervisor or HR with any questions.

Messenger Bulletin Board



Highland Park Hits the Ice: Wolves Family Outing!

What a moment for Team USA! Congratulations to both the USA Men's and Women's Olympic Hockey Teams on bringing home gold. Let's keep the winning energy going, Highland Park style!

Join us on **Sunday, April 12 at 3:00 PM** as the **Chicago Wolves** take on the Rockford IceHogs at Allstate Arena in Rosemont.

*\$24/person (Section 112)

*RSVP by March 12: <https://forms.office.com/r/SZPbv99EL2?origin=lpLink>

Bring your coworkers, friends, and family for a fun afternoon of fast-paced action and Wolf Pack spirit!



March Madness – Alma Mater Spirit Day!

Rep your roots on **Monday, March 16** by wearing your **alma mater gear** for March Madness!

Take a department photo and send it to hr@cityhpil.com to be featured in the next Messenger!

For those in uniform, you can still join by:

- Wearing college-themed socks, pins, stickers
- Sporting your alma mater colors under your uniform
- Holding a sign or banner for your department photo
- Decorating your desk, cubicle or common area



MLB Opening Week!

Step up to the plate and wear your **favorite baseball jersey** on **Monday, March 23** to celebrate MLB Opening Week!

Employee Spotlight

Each month, this piece highlights an employee from a different department. This month's employee interview is with **Andrew Larson, (Firefighter)**.

Messenger Editor: Where did you grow up, and what's one fun/quirky fact about your hometown that people might not expect?

Andrew Larson: I grew up in Grayslake, IL. One fact about my hometown is that we have a high school cross-town rival. Also, Tyler Blevins, aka Ninja, the biggest Fortnite player of all time, grew up in Grayslake.

ME: As a kid, what did you imagine you'd be doing as an adult—and does any part of that dream still live on today?

AL: Growing up, I was surrounded by the fire service with my father being a firefighter. That is why I have always wanted to be a firefighter, knowing how rewarding the job is. My dream of playing in the MLB no longer lives on.

ME: If your personality were a season, which one would it be and why? **AL:** Summer because I love being outside and wearing flip flops.

ME: What show, podcast, or book are you completely hooked on right now?

AL: A show called *Andor*.

ME: If you could wake up tomorrow having instantly mastered one skill, what would it be—and how would it change your daily life?

AL: Cooking because then I would be able to provide gourmet meals for my family, friends, and coworkers.

ME: What's your go-to workday snack or drink that keeps you going?

AL: Redbull/Coffee and Nerd Gummy Clusters

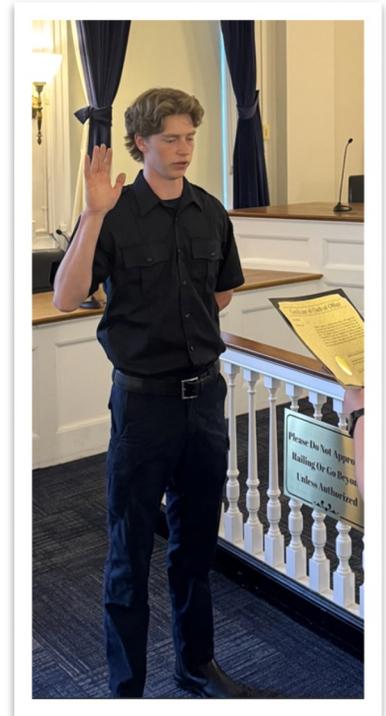
ME: It's karaoke night! What's your go-to song to bring the crowd to life?

AL: Like a Rolling Stone -Bob Dylan

ME: You get three seats at your dream dinner table—anyone from any time. Who's on the guest list? **AL:** I would have Paul McCartney, Nico Hoerner, and Drake

ME: Hollywood is making a movie about your life – who's playing you, and what's the title?

AL: Anthony Michael Hall would star as me in "Living like Larry"



SEVERE WEATHER

BAKING UP A STORM

CHOCOLATE CAKE WARNING



We have the ingredients to make a chocolate cake.

CHOCOLATE CAKE WATCH



We are having cake. RIGHT NOW.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

Severe Thunderstorm Watch

Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms containing large hail and damaging wind.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning

Large hail and/or damaging wind have been reported by spotters or are about to develop.

TORNADOS

Tornado Watch

Conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes.

Tornado Warning

A tornado has been reported by spotters or National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologists have determined that one is about to form in the next several minutes. Go to a substantial shelter immediately.

ILLINOIS TORNADO SEASON

Tornado season is typically from March to June, but tornadoes can occur any time of the year if conditions are favorable.

80% of tornadoes occur during the late afternoon to early evening hours.

Illinois averages about 50 tornadoes annually, with many occurring in central Illinois. The state has already recorded confirmed tornadoes in 2026.

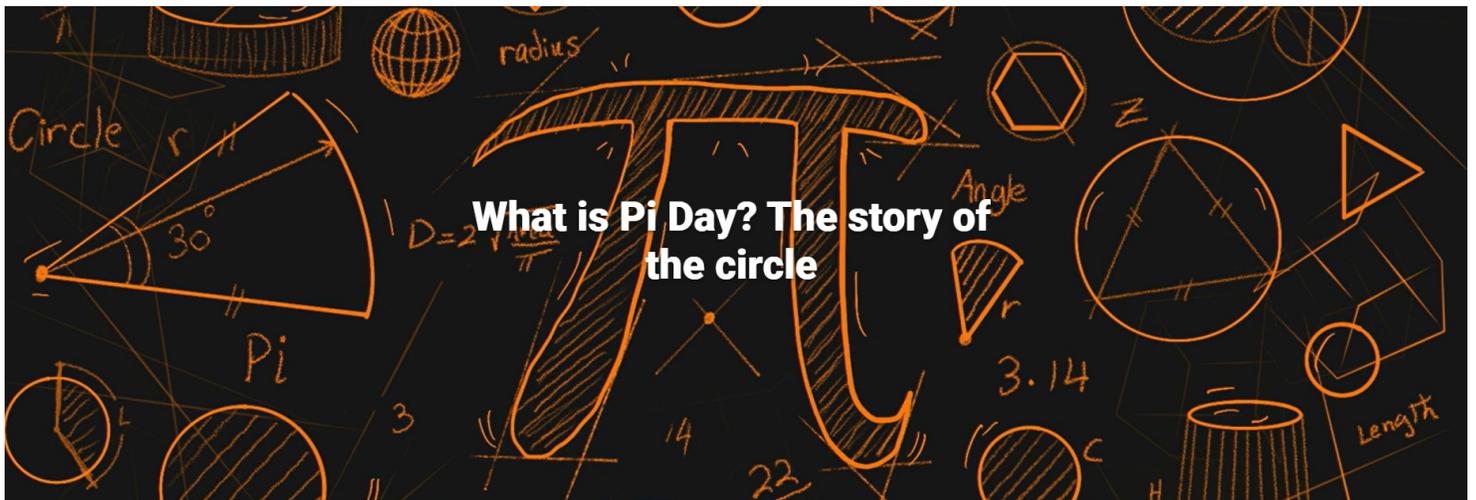
WHAT TO DO WHEN SEVERE WEATHER STRIKES

Remain calm
Seek shelter immediately
Advise others to seek shelter



WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM OUTSIDE?

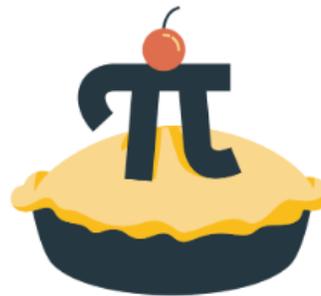
When possible, seek shelter indoors
If you cannot go indoors:
Seek low-lying areas such as a ditch
Stay away from trees
Do not try to outrun a tornado



Every year on March 14 (3/14), math enthusiasts around the world celebrate Pi Day, which also coincides with the International Day of Mathematics (IDM). More than 1,700 events are taking place globally to celebrate the beauty and importance of math in our everyday lives.

Pi (π) is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, approximately 3.14. It's one of the most recognized mathematical constants and plays an essential role in:

- Engineering
- Physics
- Architecture
- Statistics
- Technology



Although the concept of pi dates back thousands of years, the Greek letter π began representing it in the early 1700s. The symbol likely comes from the word perimeter — the distance around a circle.

Fun fact: March 14 is also the birthday of Albert Einstein, born in 1879.

Pi Day was first celebrated in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium to make math more fun and accessible.

Want to try memorizing pi? Here are the first digits:

3.14159265358979323846264338327950288419716939937510...

Math truly is everywhere.....from the wheels on our cars to the buildings we work in. Happy Pi Day!