

# Garfield Ridge Chamber of Commerce Connections

\*Since 1959\*

1st Quarter 2022



The last 2 years, we all took a hit. Our current Chamber members are banding together to revamp our community! We are making some changes!

We are currently updating our technology to include a new and improved website, complete with QR codes that add easy access to our calendar & membership information. We are also adding a quarterly newsletter full of awesome business tips, upcoming events & sponsorship opportunities.

**A current MEMBER DIRECTORY will be printed in April. DON'T FORGET TO PAY your chamber dues by March 30th to have your business included!**



## Benefits of joining the chamber

1. Business Promotions & Publicity!
2. Acquire Customer Referrals & Networking Opportunities!
3. Business Education & Advocacy!

If you would like to join the chamber or see more benefit of joining, scan the QR Code or go to our website:  
[www.garfieldridgecc.com](http://www.garfieldridgecc.com)



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# 2022 Elected Board Members

## Officers:

**President:** Mary Ellen Brown - Midway Storage & Truck Rental  
**1st Vice President:** Dr. John Baietti, D.C. - Archer Chiropractic Clinic  
**2nd Vice President:** Torrey Lewis - Friedman Real Estate  
**Secretary:** Zen McHugh - Chicago EA  
**Treasurer:** Lisa Strnad - Archer Heights Credit Union

## Directors:

Al Cacciotolo: First Rate Realty, Inc.  
Rammy Ahmad: Allstate Insurance A  
Mary Ann Dybala: In Realty  
Thomas Fitzgerald: Archer Central Coin Laundry  
Jose Reyes: S.W. News Herald  
Agnes Piotrowska: Dr. Piotrowski

## *Empowering businesses & Uniting communities*

### Annual Honorees

We would like to take this time to honor some incredible humans in our neighborhood. Every year we honor one individual who is an exemplary role as a teacher, police officer and a fire fighter. We are proud to announce this years honorees:

#### Fire Fighter of the year - Captain Tom Furlong

My desire to become a Chicago Fireman started in 1985 when I took the entrance exam. I landed some where around 1,700 on the list of 17,000 others. Many of them Family and friends who all had the same desire as me for my dream job of helping others During the three years I waited to be called to start the process I worked as a carpenter with my father Matthew Furlong. November 1, 1988, was my first day as a Chicago Fireman and I could not have been more excited, proud and ready to begin the most wonderful career. In 1995 I became a emergency medical technician which exposed to me a whole set of new job skills. I was riding on the ambulance and helping people on a more personal level. Being a fireman is like gaining a second family. You develop lifelong friendships and many memories of learning fighting fires, helping people and telling funny stories at the dinner table. After years as a firefighter, I decided to study for the Lieutenants test. In 2010 I was made Lieutenant. I enjoyed teaching and sharing my knowledge with all the new recruits. It felt great to share with them what I learned along the way. In 2019 I was made Captain. I have been lucky enough to have spent the last nine years at Engine 32's Quarters 5559 South Narragansett. Now in my 34th year I am sad at thought to leave this wonderful career but I am planning on retiring in November. I am thankful for all of the relationships that I made and will cherish the memories created along my incredible journey.



#### Business of the Month: Recap of 2021

- January - Three Sons Restaurant
- February - Prime Rate Lending Group
- March - Bam Pro Tech
- April - MacQueen Eye Care Center
- May - All Exterior Contractors
- June - CSL Plasma
- July - Chicago Glass Block
- August - Dr. Susan K. Zelazo Smith, DDS
- September - Prism
- October - Vaunt Fitness
- November - Midway Jewelers
- December - Envision

#### Teacher of the year - Leah Stephens

Leah Stephens is in her 14th year of teaching music. Currently, she teaches Pre-K to 5th grade and serves as the Arts Integration Specialist at Sor Juana Elementary School. She earned a Masters Degree in Music Education from Northwestern University, holds National Board Certification, and is a recipient of a Fulbright-Hays award in teaching. When she is not teaching music, she enjoys reading, running, and playing accordion with the Chicagoland Accordion Academy. She also volunteered at the GR farmers market this past season.



#### Police Officer of the year - Tom Izzo

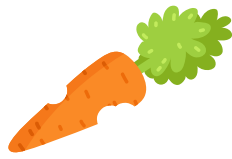
One of our own! Officer Izzo is part of the 8th District.

Officer Izzo and his family have been lifelong residents of Garfield Ridge and his brother is also a Chicago fireman.

He graduated from St. Laurence High School and has been on the force since 1998.

When Officer Izzo is not protecting and serving, you can find him watching his beloved Chicago White Sox.






### Scavenger Hunt



Get Excited, the Chamber is hosting a new event!! During 2 weeks in April you and your family will become gumshoe detectives to solve riddles by exploring the neighborhood! Clues will be given through the Chamber's website, Facebook and Instagram! Many chamber member businesses will be providing hints! Participants will be required to take photos as a selfie or a groupie at the site of the answer to the riddle. Participants will be required to tag the Chamber of Commerce in the photos to receive credit. There will be some fantastic prizes and bragging rights to all who join in!! Check out our website for more information.



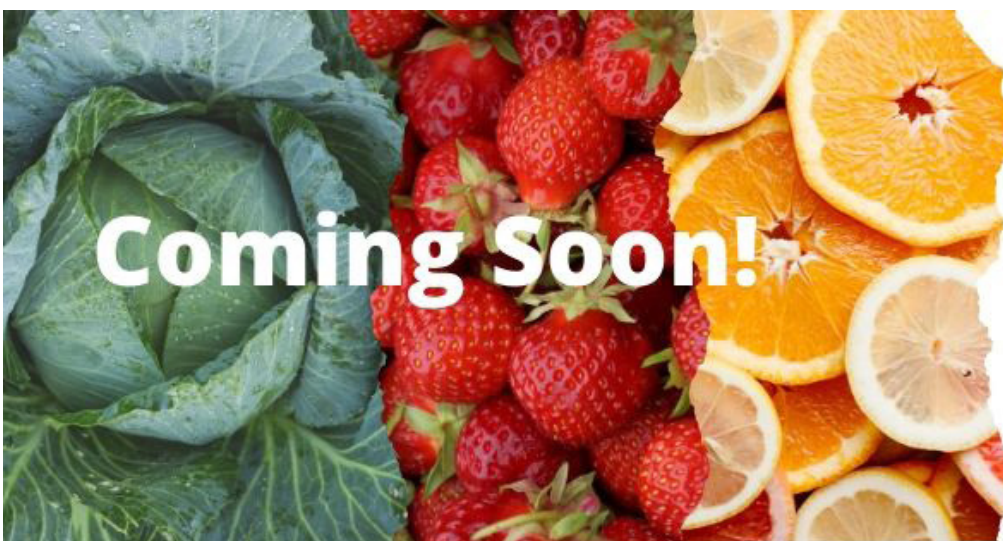
 <https://www.facebook.com/GarfieldRidgeChamber/>

 <https://www.instagram.com/garfieldridgecc/>

 [twitter.com/garfieldridgecc](https://twitter.com/garfieldridgecc)

### Farmer's Market

We are looking to kick-off the third season of the farmers market in early June! On Wednesdays, from 3pm-7pm! We are currently working on the location so be sure to check our website to stay up to date! Many of your favorite vendors will be returning, and we will continue to add new ones as well! As always, fresh produce, baked goods, spices, and treats! Food trucks? Yes! Kids activities? Yes! Music and more? Most likely!! We are always looking to grow our market! Please reach out to us if you have any suggestions on possible vendors, food trucks or other activities!



# Coming Soon!

**GARFIELD  
RIDGE**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**FARMER'S  
MARKET**

We are always on the look out for more & more vendors to make this an even bigger event. If you have a contact for a vendor, or food truck please reach out to us!

### Business Tip:

**ERTC** - (If you have a company with a payroll) Before you submit your tax return, be sure to check if you are eligible for ERTC. (Employee Retention Tax Credits) If your business was forced to shut down fully or partially during the pandemic or if you have a drop in revenue of 20% in any quarter compared to 2019's income, you may be eligible for up to **\$7,000 per person** per quarter for 2021. Be sure to check with your tax advisor on this **BEFORE** filing your 2021 business tax return.

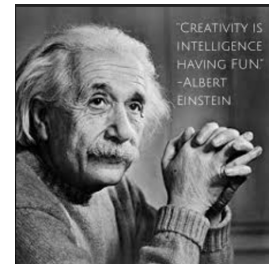
**Sick and Family Leave Credits** - You may be entitled to a tax credit if you're self-employed and were unable to work between January 1 and September 30, 2021, for one or more of the following reasons:

**\*\*Sole Proprietors and Single-Member LLCs also qualify\*\***

- You or someone you were caring for was subject to a federal, state, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19.
- You or someone you were caring for was advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
- You were experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis.
- You were exposed to COVID-19 or were waiting for results of a test or diagnosis.
- You were getting a COVID-19 vaccination or taking someone else to get one.
- You or someone you were caring for was recovering from an injury, disability, illness, or condition related to the vaccination; or
- You provided certain coronavirus-related care to a son or daughter whose school or place of care was closed or whose childcare provider was unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19.

If you were affected, it is up to **\$5,110** tax credits

If you had to *care for someone* it could be up to an **additional \$10,000** in tax credits



### Meet The Artist:

Milton Coronado, is a Chicago-born artist who currently lives in the Clearing community. He has over fifteen (15) years of experience working with communities and the young people in them from elementary to college age. He has a BFA from the American Academy of Art and also studied Education and Theology.



With a solid and diverse background, today Milton is recognized as a dynamic speaker with a powerful testimony and talented artist. He has been blessed with opportunities to travel and teach about the powerful influence of art in uniting communities and transforming lives.

Locally his work can be found on many public walls throughout Chicago, its surrounding communities, and across the nation. Including the mural he recently completed on the side of Fitcode and is featured on the front cover of this newsletter. For more information on speaker and artist Milton Coronado you can connect with him on Instagram **@milt1coronado**.

### Around Town:

Did you know that Archer & Narragansett has been the site of our beloved triangle since before 1947? Sure has gotten some upgrades since then!

Did you know that Wentworth Park is one of the most long-standing Chicago Park Districts? The land where so many of us gather with our families to play football, softball, watch movies in the park, celebrate our parades & tree lights, as well as so much more, was first turned into a park in 1946! It is named after John Wentworth who started buying property in our area in 1889, who then became a Mayor of Chicago.



# 2022 Calendar of Events

## March 1- General Chamber Meeting

🍀 March 12 - St Patrick's day Parade- Noon 🍀

March 18 - Fun Friday Magoos

April: Scavenger Hunt Week! Be on the lookout for more Details!

## April 5 - General Chamber Meeting

April 22 - Fun Friday TBA

\*Graduation, Summer Banners and Veteran's Island Triangle Brick ordering open\*

## May 3 - General Chamber Meeting

May 18 - Lunch & Learn 12pm

May 23 - Fun Friday

May 30 - Memorial Day Dedication at the triangle

🐕 June 4 - Pet parade \* & \*\* 🐕

## June 7 - General Chamber Meeting

June 8 - Farmers Market Opens \* & \*\*

🚗 June 10 - Archer Avenue Car Show 🚗

June 17 - Fun Friday @ St. Daniel the Prophet Carnival

🇺🇸 June 30 - Patriot's Day Parade 7pm Movie in the Park to follow at Kennedy 🇺🇸

## July 12 - General Chamber Meeting (2nd Tuesday)

July 15 - Fun Friday

July 20 - Lunch & Learn

## August 2 - General Chamber Meeting

August 13 - Back to School Extravaganza \*

August 19 - Fun Friday

## September 6 - General Chamber Meeting

September 16 - Fun Friday

September 23 - Chamber Golf Outing \*

Winter banners open\*

## October 4 - General Chamber Meeting

October 21 - Fun Friday

🎃 October 29 - Halloween Parade 🎃

🚗 October - TBD - 63rd Street Car Show 🚗

## November 7 - General Chamber Meeting

November 9 - Lunch & Learn

November 11 - Veteran's Day Dedication

November 18 - Fun Friday

November 19 - Cookie Walk \*

🎅 December 3 - Snack with Santa & Tree Lighting \* 🎅

## December 6 - General Chamber Meeting & Fun Friday

December 16 - Dinner Dance Christmas Party \*



## WHEN YOU VISIT AN INDEPENDENT LOCAL BUSINESS...

YOU KEEP MONEY IN YOUR  
LOCAL ECONOMY  
YOU INVEST IN  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



YOU ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY  
YOU SUPPORT LOCAL JOBS



YOU CONSERVE TAX DOLLARS  
YOU HELP THE ENVIRONMENT



YOU CELEBRATE THE  
UNIQUENESS OF YOUR  
COMMUNITY



YOU BENEFIT FROM OUR  
EXPERTISE

YOU MAKE THIS COMMUNITY A  
DESTINATION!



**\*Indicates Sponsorship Opportunities\***

**\*\*Indicates Volunteer Opportunities\*\***

Check the website  
for upcoming  
events and current  
up to date details  
[www.garfielddridgecc.com](http://www.garfielddridgecc.com)

If you have an upcoming special event you'd like to market on our events calendar, please make sure to share the details with us so we can help spread the word!  
Email us at [garfieldridgecc@live.com](mailto:garfieldridgecc@live.com)

- The chamber is working with Alderman Tabares to brighten up our streets. We are currently working to spruce up Archer Avenue. Alderman Tabares has allocated funds for street scaping up and down Archer Avenue. Street scaping includes updates and banners to street-lights poles, benches and garbage cans. In addition, we are working on grants with Alderman Tabares to continue to revitalize the entire neighborhood to put a stop to the flight.
- Get excited for our first of many Lunch & Learns on May 18th at noon. We touch on a variety of lessons that will benefit your business. Lunch will be provided. Quarterly topics are still being determined. Please make sure you register for this event as it is a first come first served event. There will also be a Zoom option.

## 2022 Business of the Month

### January

Wantuck Comfort  
Solutions  
4801 S Knox Ave  
Chicago, IL 60632

### February

Addiction Recovery  
Services  
John Sztyl  
6416 S Central Ave  
Chicago, IL 60638

### March

Archer Chiropractic Clinic  
Dr. John Baietti, D.C.  
6804 W Archer Ave  
Chicago, IL 60638

## Come out & join our community

To keep our community involved & successful we need you! Throughout the year we have many sponsorship and volunteer opportunities around our neighborhood.

Volunteers are what make our events so successful. Volunteer opportunities are available YEAR ROUND.

» Have your business represented in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 12th @ 12pm «

» Join us for some fun at Magoos Friday March 18th «

» Keep up to date with the hottest tips @ our Lunch & learn on May 18th @ 12pm «

» Any member that does not pay their dues by March 30th will not be in the member directory «



### Contact Us

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Chicago, IL 60638

