

Connections



1st Quarter 2024



Midway Chamber of Commerce
Congratulates
FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR 2023
Battalion Chief & Paramedic
Jake Jakubec
www.midwaychamber.org



Midway Chamber of Commerce
Congratulates
TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2023
Ms. Salah Byrne School
www.midwaychamber.org



Midway Chamber of Commerce
Congratulates
POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2023
Commander Spreyne
www.midwaychamber.org



Welcome to our Newest Members!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members: *Norwex- Lisette Cruz, *Tacos Los Plebes- Fabio Gerardo, *Caliber Home Loans- Maribel Guzman, *Lulu's Cakes and Treats- Maria Magnus Toledo, *Midway Crystals- Maria Rios, *Patty's Bags- Patricia Teuitli Martinez, *Evelyn's Original- Evelyn Soto, *El Patron- Melissa Diaz, *Yo Soy Vella Candles- Mildred Rivera, *King's Candles- Diana Lucio-Lopez, *Twisted Shamrock- Zenon McHugh, *Dental Town- Idalia Navar, *Sugar MOMster Bakery- Megan Brynes, *St. Albert the Great School- Jennifer Franco, *Cloud Gate Realty- Jose Arroyo, *AV Anthony's Inc- Tony Maldonado. We welcome you!

Graduation Banners!

Celebrate your favorite graduate! Honor your graduate with a banner on Archer Ave and 63rd Street. The banners are a life long keepsake! The sale will be available on our website in **March** so be sure to save the date!



Benefits of Joining the Chamber

1. Business Promotions & Publicity
2. Acquire Customer Referrals & Networking Opportunities!
3. Business Education, Support & Advocacy!
4. Add Influence in your Community

If you would like to join the chamber or see more benefits of joining, scan the QR Code or go to our website:

www.MidwayChamber.org



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Annual Honorees

Congratulations to our 2023 Honorees!!

Police Officer of the Year- Commander Spreyne

Commander Spreyne was born and raised in the Chicago Lawn neighborhood (61st and Kedzie). He learned to swim at the YMCA at 62nd Homan, played little league baseball at West Lawn, and was a lifelong car enthusiast ranging from repairs to restoration and drag racing. He spent many nights in the Archer/Garfield Ridge neighborhood (Zigs on Harlem) since he had many friends and family in the area. After entering law enforcement, he continued with his automotive hobby, which took a slight back seat after starting a family with his wife Elizabeth and three sons Matthew, Adam and Jack. When he began with the CPD, his career started out in the 22nd



District and soon after joined their Tactical team. In 2003, he was promoted to sergeant and was assigned to the 5th District until transferring to the 8th District in 2005. As a sergeant in the 8th District he worked the midnight shift, tactical team and as an administrative sergeant prior to being promoted to Lieutenant in 2019. As a lieutenant, he was assigned to the 5th District then to the Community Safety Team (CST/716). In September 2021, he was promoted to Commander of the 8th District. As part of his law enforcement career he became involved in the Special Olympics, participating in many events, runs and his favorite- The Five-O race.

Firefighter of the Year Battalion Chief/Paramedic Jake Jakubec:-

Battalion Chief/Paramedic Jake Jakubec has been a Garfield Ridge resident for 55 years. He went to Byrne and Kinzie Elementary Schools & graduated from Kennedy High School. Jake is second generation firefighter. he started as a paramedic with the Chicago Fire Department in 1981, worked his way up to Battalion Chief/Paramedic and recently retired. He has volunteered and continues to volunteer as the bell ringer for the line of duty deaths for the Chicago Fire Department.

He is married to Juanita and has a daughter, Cristina. He enjoys his retirement by being a volunteer and participating in Bible study at Christ Church. He also plays volleyball, pickle ball, softball & goes bowling in his spare time.



Teacher of the Year

Sumayya Salah currently teaches third grade at Byrne Elementary. She first joined Byrne as a student teacher in 2021; it was not long before she felt connected with the community, establishing excellent rapport with students and colleagues. Her warm and gentle demeanor extends to her teaching style; she is committed to creating a nurturing and engaging classroom environment, where students feel connected and supported. When not in the classroom, Sumayya enjoys spending time with family and friends and volunteering with local community organizations.



A Letter from the President

Make 2024 Your Year!

Whether you are new to the Midway Chamber of Commerce, or you've been a chamber member for a while, there are likely things that we introduced over the past couple of years that could make a big difference for your business. In 2024, your chamber membership and investment in your business will be worth even more.

At the Midway Chamber of Commerce, we bring community partners together for the betterment of all. We strive to advance Midway by educating, energizing, and connecting a diverse group of leaders to serve the community.

To help our member businesses, we provide a variety of networking, advertising, educational, and social offerings each year. In 2024, we'll be expanding these with more opportunities to make deeper connections and learn from the Chamber's educational events. We also plan to support collaborative efforts with local chambers and organizations to help our members initiate and build business relationships for additional growth.

The chamber provides information on Midway area business and residential activities. We encourage you to check out our current and past newsletters. Our Chamber also advocates for our business community on the local, state, and federal levels ensuring the voice of business is heard.

Our partnership with the City (and relationships with local and state government) continues to be one of our major points of focus: assisting in the areas that deeply impact economic development, directing and advocating for smart business growth, and public safety and to keep them informed on the business climate and to encourage business-friendly policies whenever possible.

We are committed to current and future growth of our area. From workforce development to our Midway Chamber education series. The Chamber knows that the future of our workforce impacts our economy and economic development of tomorrow. We have expanded our website to offer a help wanted portal. To assist our community and future leaders -our members support our schools and continue to graciously donate and share their time and expertise with our students because they recognize them as our future business leaders and professionals. In 2023 we worked on launching a special program with St. Laurence High School, which will teach future leaders about the innerworkings of our community businesses. In 2024, we'll be expanding that program.

Midway is an excellent place to do business and a caring community in which to live with programs and learning opportunities for everyone. I want to encourage you to become active in the community and in (y)our Chamber in 2024. Please look at our calendar online for opportunities where you can help make a difference. Volunteer in Chamber activities or on a committee. Support our member companies with your business. Local purchases help build our community and strengthen our schools. Together we can become better than ever before.

Many of you have told us how hard it is for you to step outside of your businesses and participate at our in-person meetings and events. We strongly encourage you to focus on at least one event or meeting, held the first Tuesday of each month. This is your chance to meet your peers and our Board and to share best practices and grow partnerships.

The power of social media is a very important part of business and the way it can be used to communicate directly with our residents. We plan to continue using it vigorously and are happy to share your news when you would like us to. We strongly encourage you to utilize the various platforms that make the most sense, grow your following and be consistent in your communication.

We're here for you and we hope we can count on you to be here for the community as well.

As the Chamber President/CEO, I am thrilled to work alongside our dedicated Board. It's comprised of members who share the same vision for business growth and a healthy community environment.

You can find a way to succeed and we're here to help and support your efforts.

-Mary Ellen Brown- President- Midway Chamber of Commerce



Celebrate Our Businesses of the Month

January Business of the Month: **Timeless Tattoo**

Founded in 2012, Timeless Tattoos established itself as the premier tattoo studio on the South Side of Chicago. Our team of talented artists are dedicated to providing exceptional customer service and creating custom designs that exceed your wildest expectations. We take pride in maintaining the highest standards of hygiene and safety, and we use the highest quality ink and equipment. Come and see why we are the Pride of the South Side! Visit us at Timeless Tattoos Chicago-7112 W. Archer, Chicago IL or call 773-229-0993



February Business of the Month: **Ciao Rigazzi**

Ciao Rigazzi is a family owned restaurant that opened December 2nd of 2021. We have a variety of options available at the bar such as good wines and mixed drinks with a large selection of beers. We serve authentic Italian food, freshly prepared daily and home made pastas, bread and desserts. Jose Guadalupe Padilla and his partners- brothers- Leonardo and Liazar Padilla find Garfield Ridge is great opportunity for new business!

Ciao Rigazzi is offering a 10% discount cards on food for the month of January and February. Stop into Ash Gastro Pub or Trianos for your coupon today.



March Business of the Month: **A-Ok Automotive**

We're a family - owned business that opened in 2021 with over 25 years of experience. A-Ok Auto Body Inc performs a full range of collision repair services at a higher standard including domestic and foreign autos. We work with a majority of insurance companies. Our highly skilled team is I-Car Certified. As your dedicated automotive specialist, we're committed to providing you with the highest quality service. We pride ourselves in ensuring that we get you back safely on the road as quickly as possible.



Visit our website for even more information- <https://a-okautobody.net/>

Website Update

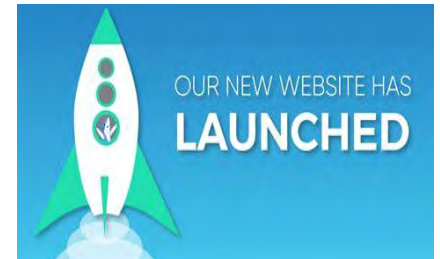
By now, everyone should be aware that we have created a new website! ** Please be sure to check your spam folder for our emails! We hope that you are enjoying the way that we, at the Midway Chamber of Commerce, are staying hip with the times. Please take a few minutes to login by creating a new profile. Update your contact information, and your categories which will help drive members of the community to your business.

Did you know you can also post coupons, job openings and your upcoming events on our website? You can also set up your auto renewals and pay by check for any sponsorships and events!

We strive to support you to make your business the best it can be!

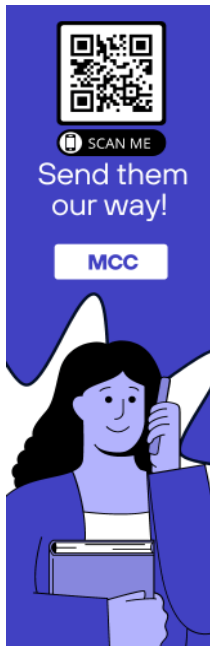
Login now! www.MidwayChamber.org

Any questions, please email- director@midwaychamber.org



Support the Businesses That Support our Community!

Membership Update



Looking Forward, Never Back

Our main priorities through 2024 are:

- Business Strong - Creating an environment where Midway area businesses thrive.
- Community Strong – Supporting quality of life initiatives to enhance Midway's vitality.
- Chamber Strong – Creating a strong, sustainable Chamber.

Business of the Month

- January:** Archer & Central Laundromat
- February:** Bobby G's Tavern
- March:** Central Clearing Drugs
- April:** Trianos Pizza
- May:** F3 Technologies
- June:** Marquette Bank
- July:** Stella's Cardio Blast
- August:** All Exterior Contractors
- September:** Guide's Sports Bar
- October:** Prestige Real Estate Images
- November:** Chicago EA
- December:** RevIVE Mobile Wellness

Sponsorships & Volunteer Opportunities 2024

We are working toward improving the quality of life for all with the support and commitment of our members, volunteers, and sponsors. A strong economic environment requires a strong community. We are truly fortunate to have leaders, business owners, educators, and citizens who realize that we all share in the responsibility of creating economic success and happiness within our community.

To sponsor an event, email info@midwaychamber.org or check out the website Sponsor tab @ MidwayChamber.org

We need everyone involved!



Upcoming Events



Valentines Day Comedy Jam - Valentine's Day is a special holiday where we celebrate love, friendship and relationships. And what better way to do that than by attending a Valentine's Day event filled with fun, laughter, food and drinks?

On February 9th, join us at the European Chalet for an amazing night full of love and joy. This is a highly anticipated event that sells out every year, so make sure to grab your tickets as soon as possible!

Restaurant Week- 2/9-2/18- Pop into one of our local participating restaurants for some delicious foods, drinks and fun. Many restaurants will have special menus and special deals for this week. If you're looking to try out new dishes or indulge in your favorite foods, now is the perfect time to do so at our participating restaurants. With a variety of cuisines available, there's something for everyone to enjoy. This is a great opportunity to try out new dishes and explore different flavors. You may even discover a new favorite dish or restaurant.



Golf Outing- this year we are moving the Golf outing to the Spring! Mark your calendars and save the date- May 17! Check out our website for all the details!

Events Recap

Halloween- Day of Family Fun- The chamber hosted a full day of family fun, including our annual Parade, a trunk or treat and our first Annual Day of the Dead. This event was full of fun for all ages and brought the community together! We encourage our businesses to keep an eye out for all of our upcoming events to help their businesses grow. This year, WGN news came out to our events to cover this amazing event!



Cookie Walk-The third annual cookie walk event was recently held on Archer Avenue, and it was a tremendous success! The event attracted hundreds of people of all ages who came to enjoy the festive atmosphere, while also getting a head start on their Christmas shopping. In addition to delicious cookies, this sold-out event offered much more. Attendees were able to take a leisurely stroll on Archer Avenue and stop at various businesses and vendors for unique gifts and goodies.



If you missed out on this year's cookie walk, don't worry - it will be back next year! Make sure to save the date and get your tickets early, as this popular event is sure to sell out quickly. So mark your calendars now and get ready for another unforgettable day of fun, cookies, and holiday cheer. See you there

Veterans Banners- What an amazing turnout!!! Over the summer, hundreds of families honored their Veterans with beautiful banners that lined Archer Ave and 63rd Street. Banners are now available for pick up at Midway Storage.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING - 1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, EXCEPT JAN & JULY

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						31



January



July

5k
Networking Event



February

Valentine Comedy Show
Restaurant Week



August

Back to School



March

St. Patricks Parade,
Spring Community Expo,
Graduation Banner

September



April

Veterans Banners
Networking Event



October

Sweetheart Comedy Show,
Halloween Parade,
Day of the Dead Celebration



May

Golf Outing,
Memorial Day Dedication



November

Pub Crawl,
Cookie Walk



June

Farmers Market- Thru
September, Pet Parade, Archer
Car Show, Patriots Day Par



December

Snack with Santa,
Annual Dinner Dance



Check The Website For
Upcoming Events And
Current Up To Date Details
midwaychamber.org

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!
Upload them directly to the new website- www.midwaychamber.org or share them to our facebook!

Twisted Shamrock is back!

Twisted Shamrock has been vacant for a few years, but has recently been purchased by a pair of neighborhood locals. These men have other small businesses in the area and want to revive this local staple. With a new menu, a new feel, a new ambiance, it's sure to be a hit. Be sure to check it out, enjoy this freshly renovated upscale neighborhood bar and book your parties or stop in to see the live bands on Friday nights.



Huge Shout Out ! A Legacy of Delicious Treats!

We would like to recognize and give a special shout-out to one of our long-time members - Pticeks! This family-owned bakery has been in business for an impressive 80 years. Located at 5523 S. Narragansett, this bakery was established this location back in 1959.

Pticeks is more than just a bakery, it's a local landmark that has been serving up delicious treats to the community for decades. From their famous cheese cakes and pastries to their freshly baked bread, Pticeks has become a staple in the neighborhood.

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.

Save the date!!

Valentines Day Comedy Show - 2/ 9 **Restaurant Week 2/9-2/18 **Golf Outing 5/17

Contact Us

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



<https://www.instagram.com/midwaychamber59/>



If there is any information you'd like to see included in the newsletter or the website, Please reach out to director@midwaychamber.org