



THE MESSENGER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY AND FOR CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK EMPLOYEES

January 2025 Edition

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Welcome to...

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Cindy Hooten | Finance | Payroll Specialist |
| Jimmy Aviles | Public Works | Seasonal Public Works Worker |
| Jeff Brown | Public Works | Seasonal Public Works Worker |
| Lesley Seynos | Police | Police Officer |

Welcome Back to...

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Gerardo Gutierrez | Public Works | Seasonal Public Works Worker |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|

Farewell to...

| | | |
|----------------|--------|----------------------|
| Mark Ganziano | Fire | Firefighter / EMT I |
| Bill Bonaguidi | Police | Deputy Police Chief |
| Jerry Cameron | Police | Police Commander |
| Jason Noga | Fire | Firefighter / EMT II |

Congratulations, Ruby! For the past 30 years, you have been a cornerstone of support, tirelessly contributing to our Community Development team with remarkable dedication and effort. We are deeply grateful for all that you've done!

Employee Anniversaries

| Last Name | First name | Dept. | Title | Years |
|-------------|-------------|--------|--|-------|
| Cameron Jr. | Gerald | Police | Police Commander | 45 |
| Neuman | Steven | Police | Police Sergeant | 26 |
| Glasco | Claudia | PW | Administrative & Customer Service Specialist | 25 |
| Servin | David | PW | Maintenance Worker | 24 |
| Frey | Laura | CMO | Manager Of Senior Services | 24 |
| Verber | Brian | Police | Police Officer | 23 |
| Galati | Anton | Police | Police Commander | 23 |
| Dragicevich | Travis | Police | Police Officer | 22 |
| Olson | Jennifer | Police | Police Commander | 22 |
| White | Jacqueline | Police | Police Officer | 21 |
| Hyndman | Amy | Police | Records Supervisor | 21 |
| Soldano | Brian | Police | Police Sergeant | 18 |
| Reif | Brian | Police | Police Sergeant | 14 |
| Dibasilio | Douglas | Police | Police Officer | 14 |
| Merkel | Brian | Police | Police Sergeant | 14 |
| Painter | William | PW | Foreman | 13 |
| Foley | Casey | Police | Police Sergeant | 12 |
| Eldridge | James | Police | Police Sergeant | 12 |
| Hansen | Trevor | Police | Police Officer | 12 |
| Cizek | Christopher | PW | Water Plant Operator | 10 |
| Earle | Christina | CMO | Senior Services Program | 9 |
| Curtis | Randall | PW | Water Plant Operator | 8 |
| Walters | Kevin | PW | Auto Mechanic | 7 |
| Bill | Michael | CD | Pt Building/Housing Inspector | 7 |
| Ferber | James | CD | Senior Inspector | 5 |
| Carrillo | Angel | PW | Maintenance Worker | 3 |
| Miller | Keith | PW | Utilities Superintendent | 2 |
| Shaffer | Angela | CMO | Business Development Assistant | 2 |
| Salgado | Katherine | Police | Police Records Specialist | 1 |
| Mccomb | Megan | Police | Police Records Specialist | 1 |
| Yu | Shuting | CD | Clerical | 1 |

City Offices will be closed

★★★

MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

WIN Program



WIN Program Reminders and Notes:

Portal Updates:

- 2024-25 WIN Points: The portal is now open for participants to start earning points for the 2024-25 program year. Returning participants do not need a program code. Simply visit <https://app.chcw.com> to log in and begin tracking.
- New Participants and Qualifying Spouses: New participants and qualifying spouses can register using program code **6754Cit189** at <https://app.chcw.com/#newparticipants>. Reach out via email for assistance with the initial registration and requirements. Discounts for brand-new participants will take effect upon receipt of February Biometric results.

January Nutrition Challenge:

- Kickoff Date: January 6, 2025.
- Earn up to 25 points by completing the challenge! Track your healthy meals using the CHC Nutrition Tracker daily from January 6 through January 31, 2025. Each day you log nutrition intake = 1 point. Total possible points for the challenge = 25 points.
- How to Participate: Log in to the CHC Wellness app at <https://app.chcw.com>, click "Challenges & Trackers," and select "Nutrition" to track your daily intake.

February Biometric Health Screening Event:

- Event Dates: February 12 – 15, 2025.
- Location: Highland Park Police Department.
- **Requirement: The Biometric Health Screening is required for all WIN participants and their spouses on insurance.** The annual event is the most convenient way to fulfill the health screening requirement for 2025.
- How to Register: Log in to <https://app.chcw.com> and register for your health screening through the dashboard.
- Deadline: Health screenings must be completed by February 28, 2025 regardless if you choose the event or utilize another option. No late exceptions.

Additional Screening Options:

- Remote LabCorp: Select "Remote" as your screening option during registration. Print the required form and bring it to your LabCorp appointment. Results must be received by February 28, 2025.
- Physician Screening: Select "Physician Screening" as your option. Print the required form and bring it to your physician's office. Results must be received by February 28, 2025.
- Participating Firefighters: Follow the same steps as the Physician Screening option but coordinate with Health Endeavors to collect the required health data for your wellness check. Spouses must complete their screenings via the city event, remote, or physician option. Results must be received by February 28, 2025.

Important Links:

- [CHC Wellbeing App](#)
- [WIN Forms](#)
- [WIN Handbook](#)



City of Highland Park

The mission of the City of Highland Park, Illinois is to provide high-quality municipal services in an efficient and fiscally-responsible manner through effective, transparent, collaborative, and inclusive governance.

Customer Service Values

To uphold our mission, City employees maintain the following values:

Committed

- Keep customers and colleagues informed of projects taking place in the community.
- Provide friendly, courteous, and knowledgeable customer service.
- Recognize that we represent the City with our words and actions.

Respectful

- Strive to respond by the next duty/work day to customers and colleagues. If you don't have an answer, acknowledge receipt and provide a timeline for a response.
- Set realistic expectations and timelines for colleagues and customers.
- When appropriate, use the out of office greeting for your phone and email.
- Listen and respond with empathy.
- Keep others informed of project status and customer needs.

Progressive

- Attempt to get to "yes" or provide options for moving forward.
- Strive to improve every day.
- Innovate whenever possible.
- Seek feedback on our service performance.
- Collaborate so the best decision is made for the City.
- Share best practices across departments.

Proud

- Lead with honesty, character and integrity.
- Celebrate success.
- Take ownership and pride in our work.



Messenger Bulletin Board

Sending our heartfelt thanks to each of you for attending our holiday party! Your presence made the event truly special and a wonderful way to celebrate the end of another successful year.

Seeing everyone connect, laugh, and enjoy the festivities is a great reminder how lucky we are to work alongside such an amazing group of people. A big thank you to Vic Walter for sharing photos from the party—these snapshots captured the joy and camaraderie that make our team so unique!

Let's carry this positive energy into this new year as we continue to achieve great things together!





Please post the [revised calendar for the 2025 State of the City Meetings](#) in your department:

- The January 14th meeting in City Hall has been moved to the Lower Level Conference Room
- The Thursday, January 30th meeting at the Fire Department Training Room will begin at 3PM

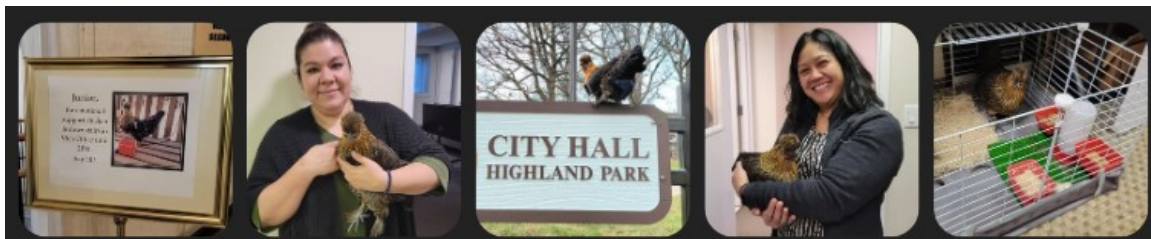


Junior: The Emotional Support Chicken

Meet Junior, a truly special chick who made her grand entrance into the world on May 11, 2022. Out of 26 incubated eggs, she was the only one to hatch—fittingly from egg number 13, proving that luck was on her side! She is affectionately called Junior, a "legacy chicken," a term that signifies the deliberate hatching of chickens with notable lineages that perfectly captures the essence of Junior's remarkable heritage. She's a unique blend of Silkie and Ayam Cemani, earning her legacy status thanks to her extraordinary father!

Junior's father, Buddy, was also a striking 50/50 mix of Silkie and Ayam Cemani. His story began in a hidden clutch of seven eggs, secretly nestled away by a clever hen. When the eggs finally hatched, they revealed a delightful mix of four hens and three roosters. From this surprise brood, Buddy stood out, and Vic Walter soon adopted him, along with his sister "Lady," bringing them into a cozy coop Vic specially designed—a whimsical homage to the Dr. Who Tardis.

We can't wait for her next visit! Thanks, Vic!



Employee Spotlight

Each month, this piece highlights an employee from a different department. This month's employee interview is with **Austin Knight, Sustainability Manager**.

Messenger Editor: Where are you from originally?

Austin Knight: Born in Waukesha, WI but lived most of my early life in Naperville, IL.

ME: When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

AK: Wildlife biologist

ME: What is your favorite winter activity?

AK: Hockey

ME: What are you watching or reading right now?

AK: I am currently reading *The Reckoning of Roku* by Randy Ribay

ME: If you could instantly master any skill or talent, what would it be and why?

AK: Persuasion as it would increase the chances I could get meaningful environmental legislation passed in the state.

ME: What is the best thing you've ever eaten?

AK: Shredded chicken tacos at Vera Cruz in Victoria, TX.

ME: If you had to sing karaoke, what song would you pick?

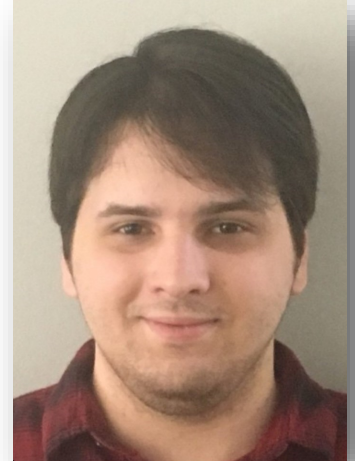
AK: Hunger Strike by Temple of the Dog

ME: You can have dinner with any three people, living or deceased. Who would you choose?

AK: Marie Skłodowska-Curie, Teddy Roosevelt, Idelisa Bonnelly

ME: They're making a movie about your life. Who would you cast to play yourself?

AK: Junior (The Emotional Support Chicken)



Safety Reminders



In January, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes National Radon Action Month and encourages Americans to test their homes for radon. Radon is an odorless, colorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that, when left unaddressed, can build up inside a home. Over time, exposure to radon can cause lung cancer. The only way to know if your home has high levels of radon is to test for it.

“Radon is a serious public health risk that can be reduced using simple, proven techniques,” said Acting Director of EPA’s Indoor Environments Division, Sharon White. “During this year’s National Radon Action Month, we urge everyone to take the first but vital step of testing their home. This year’s theme of ‘Test Your Nest: Test, Fix, Save a Life,’ emphasizes that identifying and reducing radon exposure can decrease lung cancer risk and save lives. Together we can protect our families and communities from this invisible threat.”

[Testing for radon](#) is easy and inexpensive. Affordable do-it-yourself radon test kits are available for purchase online and at most home improvement and hardware stores. Some states and municipalities even provide at-home radon test kits for free. You can also hire a qualified radon professional to test your home. [Contact your state or Tribal radon program](#) to learn more about radon services in your area.

Millions of homes in the United States have elevated levels of radon. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and is responsible for about [21,000 lung cancer deaths every year](#), but many people don’t know about radon or the risks it can pose to their health.

If you haven’t tested your home for radon, National Radon Action Month is the perfect time to take this step to protect yourself and your loved ones. Tens of millions of homes have already been tested, and millions of homes with high radon levels have been fixed.

The EPA recommends taking action to fix your home if you discover radon levels above 4 picocuries per liter. If your home does have elevated levels of radon, a qualified professional can install a system to lower your indoor radon levels. For more guidance on how to address radon risks, see [EPA’s radon website](#).

Test. Fix. Save a life.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/prevent-lung-cancer-testing-your-home-radon-0>

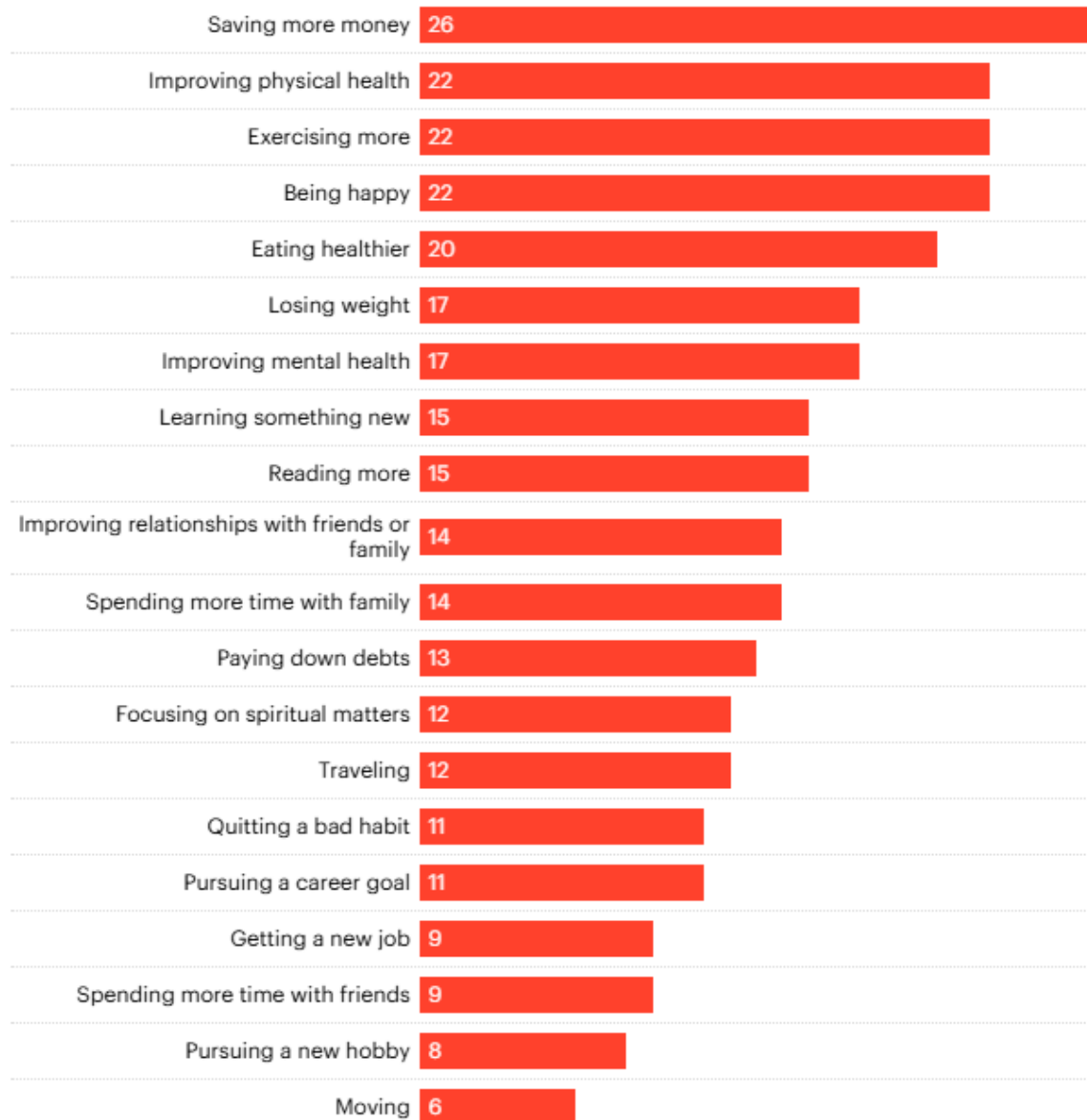
What's your New Year's Resolution?

Ahead of New Year's Day, [a new YouGov poll](#) asked Americans what, if anything, they're resolving to do differently in 2025. While the majority of Americans aren't making New Year's resolutions, many of those who are making them are looking to make changes to their financial habits and their physical health.

31% of Americans will be making New Year's resolutions or setting goals for 2025. The majority (58%) of adults under 30 will be making resolutions; only 24% of older Americans will be doing so. Adults 65 and older are especially unlikely to make resolutions: Just 14% plan to do so.

In 2025, Americans are most likely to resolve to save more money, improve their physical health, exercise more, and be happy

Which of the following will you resolve to start doing in 2025? Select all that apply. (% of U.S. adult citizens)



Note: Responses of "not sure," "other," and "none of these" are not shown; 55% of Americans say they will not make any type of New Year's resolution or set a goal for 2025.

YouGov

December 9 - 11, 2024 • [Get the data](#)