

Chicago Southland

Tourism Marketing Information

Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau

Vol. 5 Issue 2 • November 2019

~ 2019 Chicago Southland CVB Annual Meeting ~

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau celebrated its annual meeting at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Lawn & Conference Center.

Over 300 people attended, including Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly, who delivered keynote speeches and helped recognize the winners of the Stars of the Industry Awards and CVB Annual Awards.

The 2019 theme was "One Chicago Southland." The Chicago Southland's 63 unique municipalities all contribute to the region's success and strong tourism industry. Whether it's hotels, festivals, stadiums, golf courses, restaurants, breweries, museums, shopping, forest preserves or arts and entertainment,

each municipality's amenities play an integral role in our success. Jim Garrett, President/CEO of the CVB, began the day's program by highlighting the region's recent achievements.



Garrett also stated that individually, we are 63 municipalities, but together, we are one Chicago Southland.

Keynote speaker Congresswoman Kelly spoke about the importance of working together and overcoming the barriers that the region faces, while guest speaker

Governor Pritzker spoke about his support of infrastructure work, including improvements along I-80 and the future gaming facilities that will call the Chicago Southland home.

Mary Patchin, Director of Sales, was presented with an award by CVB Chairman Daniel Fitzgerald, recognizing her 20th anniversary working for the CVB.

The Stars of the Industry Awards were presented to outstanding hotel staff throughout the Chicago Southland, while the CVB Annual Awards were presented to individuals or municipalities for their outstanding contributions to the tourism industry. These awards were presented by Sally Schlesinger, Executive Vice President of the CVB.



Pictured, left to right: Chicago Southland CVB President/CEO Jim Garrett; U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly; Illinois Governor JB Pritzker; Chicago Southland CVB Chairman Daniel Fitzgerald; Chicago Southland CVB Executive Vice President Sally Schlesinger

2019 Award Winners

For 20 Years of Valued Service to the CVB



Mary Patchin, Director of Sales
Chicago Southland CVB

Food & Beverage Employee of the Year



Gabe Perez
DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago-Alsip

Guest Services Employee of the Year



Jedika Diaz
Sleep Inn Hotel - Lansing

Housekeeping Employee of the Year



Dolly DeGracia
Holiday Inn Hotel - Tinley Park

Maintenance Employee of the Year



Ed Rzepka
Holiday Inn Express - Crestwood

Manager of the Year



Karen Krzak
Gateway Inn of Oak Lawn
Linda Morgan Award for Volunteerism

Award of Merit



Sara & Kevin Brown

Award of Merit



Vernard Alsberry Jr., Mayor
Hazel Crest

Patricia Chase Magon Municipal Leadership Award



Village of Lansing
Accepted by Mayor Patty Eidam

Senator Aldo DeAngelis Leadership Award



Vicky Smith, Executive Director
Southwest Conference of Mayors



Keith Wallace, Executive Director
Lincolnway Special Recreation Association
Accepted by Marquita Wallace

Member of the Year



Evil Horse Brewing Company
Accepted by Amy Kamp

Chicago Southland Tournament Receives “Champion” Award



The 2019 Toyota USA National Juniors & Women's Wheelchair Basketball Association Championships has been recognized as a Champion of Economic Impact in Sports Tourism by *Sports Destination Management*. The tournament was recognized in the Innovations in Sports Tourism category.

The championships were held at four different locations in the Chicago Southland, including the Lincolnway Special Recreation Association (LWSRA) in New Lenox. The tournament featured 57 teams with more than 500 adaptive athletes participating. The event used a total of 19 hotels throughout the Chicago Southland and generated 1,300 hotel room nights over the course of three days.

The 2019 tournament marked the first time that both the juniors and women's events were hosted over the same weekend. Over 1,500 volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that the event was a success, including guaranteeing athletes had access to appropriate housing and transportation while visiting the Chicago Southland region. Overall, the total estimated economic impact for this event was \$478,000. Through a partnership with LWSRA, the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau was able to successfully bring this event to the Chicago Southland area.

Volunteers Needed for 2020 BMW Championship



The 2020 BMW Championship is looking for volunteers to help make the event a success! The championship will be held at the Olympia Fields Country Club from August 20-23, 2020.

The cost to register as a volunteer is \$135; registration includes fun incentives, such as golf shirts, hats, commemorative pins, food and beverage vouchers, an invitation to the volunteer appreciation party and more.

The 2020 championship will mark the sixth time the event has been contested in Olympia Fields, which is known for being a “tremendous test for the world's top players.” The BMW Championship will feature 70 players, each vying to earn a spot in the season-ending TOUR Championships.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Evans Scholars Foundation, which has awarded full tuition and housing scholarships to over 11,500 deserving caddies from around the United States since 1930.

For more information or to register as a volunteer, please visit <https://bit.ly/2CANeli>.



~ What's Been Happening ~

CVB Welcomes 30 New Members



Andy's Frozen Custard
708-499-1400
9507 S. Cicero Avenue
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
EatAndys.com



The Barrel Club
708-581-3357
4910 W. 111th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
BarrelClubIllinois.com



Bottoms Up
Sports Bar & Grill
708-418-3877
1696 Thornton-Lansing Road
Lansing, IL 60438
BottomsUpOnline.com



Bult Field
708-534-8282
28261 S. Kedzie Avenue
Monee, IL 60449
BultField.com



Chicago Charter Bus Company
312-667-0906
8913 S. Cornell Avenue
Chicago, IL 60617
ChicagoBusCharterCompany.com



Chicagoland Coach Lines
630-453-4493
2005 W. 43rd Street
Chicago, IL 60609
Chris.Pellegrino@NELLC.com



Chicagoland Speedway & Route 66 Raceway
815-722-5500
500 Speedway Boulevard
Joliet, IL 60433
ChicagolandSpeedway.com
Route66Raceway.com



Cog Hill Golf & Country Club
866-264-4455
12294 S. Archer Avenue
Palos Park, IL 60439
CogHillGolf.com



D'Masti Catering Inc.
708-388-0940
11915 Southwestern Avenue
Blue Island, IL 60406
DMasti.com



Deja Brew Bar & Grille
708-423-0484
5219 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
DejaBrewBarGrille.com



Doc's Smokehouse & Craft Bar
708-995-5533
19081 Old LaGrange Road
Mokena, IL 60406
DocsBBQ.com



Ed & Joe's Restaurant & Pizzeria
708-532-3051
17332 Oak Park Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477
EdnJoos.com



Fox Pointe
708-895-7209
18138 Henry Street
Lansing, IL 60438
FoxPointe.org



Fox's Restaurant
708-499-2233
9240 S. Cicero Avenue
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
FoxsRestaurant.com



Francesca's on 95th
708-598-7007
6248 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
MiaFrancesca.com



Gamma VR
708-970-8977
2416 176th Street, Unit A
Lansing, IL 60438
GammaVR.com



The Homewood Business Association
708-798-3000
2007 Ridge Road
Homewood, IL 60430
HBA.bz



Jedi's Restaurant & Grill
708-499-4545
9266 S. Cicero Avenue
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
JedisRestaurant.com



Les Brothers Restaurant
708-599-7990
8705 S. Ridgeland Avenue
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Les-Brothers.com



Mancino's Pizza & Grinders
708-474-6337
3300 Ridge Road
Lansing, IL 60438
MancinosofLansing.com

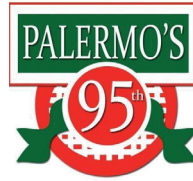
~ What's Been Happening ~



**McCord Gallery &
Cultural Center**
708-671-0648
9602 W. Creek Road
Palos Park, IL 60464
McCordGallery.org



Outriggers Steak & Seafood
708-418-3100
2352 172nd Street
Lansing, IL 60438
MyOutriggers.com



**Palermo's 95th
Italian Cuisine**
708-425-6262
4849 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Palermos95th.com



Redbird Cafe
708-914-4947
2057 Ridge Road
Homewood, IL 60430
Redbird-Cafe.com



South Holland Master Chorale
708-210-2913
16226 Wausau Avenue
South Holland, IL 60473
SouthHollandMasterChorale.org



STACKED

Stacked Pancake House
708-406-8888
14306 S. Cicero Avenue
Crestwood, IL 60418
StackedPancakeHouse.com



STACKED

Stacked Pancake House
708-422-5555
5273 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
StackedPancakeHouse.com

~ Historical Societies ~

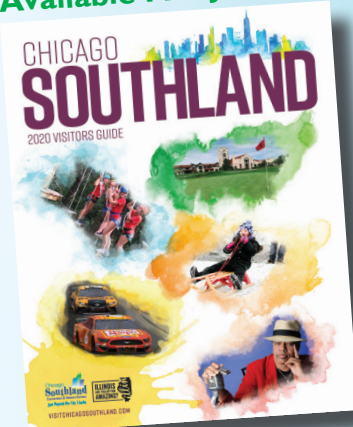
**Crete Area
Historical Society**
525 W. Exchange Street
Crete, IL 60417

**Mokena Area
Historical Society**
P.O. Box 363
Mokena, IL 60448

Monee Historical Society
708-288-5756
P.O. Box 171
Monee, IL 60449
MoneeHistoricalSociety.com

Get your 2020 Chicago Southland Visitors Guide and Fall/Winter Festivals and Events Guide!

**2020 Visitors Guide
Available Mid-January!**



Available Now!



To order a supply of either guide for
your facility, please contact the
Chicago Southland CVB at:
708-895-8200 or
Info@VisitChicagoSouthland.com

For the latest, up-to-date listings of
our festivals and events, go to:
VisitChicagoSouthland.com/Events

CVB Staff Members Enjoy Rare Tour of Thornton Quarry

Several CVB staff members were invited to journey into the Thornton Quarry, one of the largest aggregate quarries in the world. If you've ever driven over the quarry while traveling on I-80/I-294, you know just how impressive this spot is! At its deepest point, the Thornton Quarry is 450 feet deep. The quarry is 1.5 miles long and 0.5 miles wide. The tour began at St. Paul Lutheran Church in South Holland, where a short informational video was played for attendees, helping them learn more about the quarry's history. Then, the group stopped at the overlook, allowing for stunning aerial views of the quarry. Finally, the group trekked into the quarry itself, passing through the Lehigh Hanson processing plant before finally reaching the bottom. Staff members, along with other tour-goers, were invited to search the rocks for fossils of Silurian-age reefs, which were formed over 400 million years ago when the Michigan Basin was covered in sea water. The 3-hour tour was an exciting and unique opportunity, and proved to be an unforgettable experience for all who were lucky enough to attend.



2019 National Beard & Moustache Championships

The highly-anticipated Remington Beard Boss National Beard and Moustache Championships took place on November 8 and 9 at 350 Brewing Company's Insanity Factory in Tinley Park. With over 50 categories to choose from, there was no shortage of fun for both competitors and spectators alike. Several media outlets came out to cover the event, including ABC 7 and NBC 5. Additionally, the championships will be featured on a future episode of the PBS show *Wild Travels*, as well as the Moline-based *Brewed*, which focuses on the craft beer scene in and around the Quad Cities. Competitors came from over 25 states, with some "beardos" coming in from as far as Canada, the United Kingdom and Iceland.



Upcoming Industry Trade Shows



**Illinois Society of
Association Executives**
December 4 - 5, 2019
Springfield, IL



National Tour Association
December 8 - 12, 2019
Fort Worth, TX



US Sports Congress
December 9 - 11, 2019
Columbia, SC



The Midwest Clinic
International Band and Orchestra Conference
Midwest Band Clinic
December 19, 2019
Chicago, IL



Sports Express
January 6 - 10, 2020
Captiva Island, FL



American Bus Association
January 11 - 14, 2020
Omaha, NE



RCMA
February 4 - 6, 2020
Irving, TX



**Connect Marketplace
Diversity**
February 19 - 21, 2020
Kissimmee, FL



**Connect Marketplace
Sports Diversity**
February 19 - 21, 2020
Kissimmee, FL



Heartland Travel Showcase
February 28 - March 1, 2020
Lansing, MI

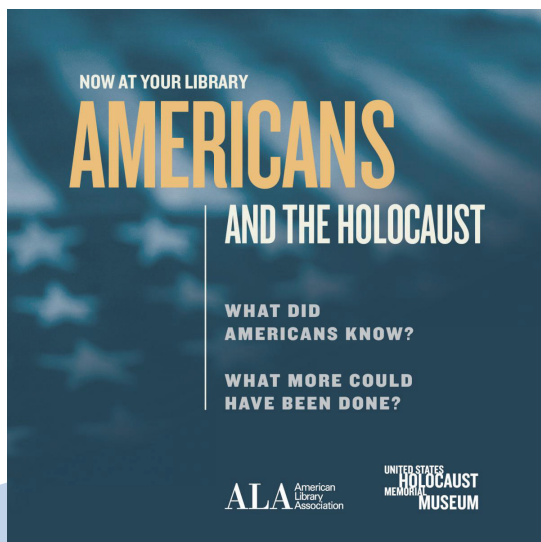


**Connect Marketplace
Chicago**
February 24 - 25, 2020
Oak Brook, IL



**Christian Meetings &
Conventions Association**
March 16 - 18, 2020
Colorado Springs, CO

Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit Coming to Prairie State College in 2020



A unique traveling exhibit will make a stop in the Chicago Southland from March 16 to April 27. *Americans and the Holocaust* will be hosted by the Prairie State College Library in Chicago Heights for six weeks, free of charge to visitors.

This exhibit was carefully crafted after extensive new research was conducted. *Americans and the Holocaust* will challenge commonly held assumptions about Americans during World War II as well as tell the stories of the individuals who fought for change and took risks to help victims of Nazism. More than 250 libraries across the United States vied for the opportunity to host this exhibit; Prairie State College is one of only two Illinois stops that the exhibit will make. The exhibit will continue traveling throughout the United States through 2022. For more information, visit Library.PrairieState.edu or call 708-709-3552.



2304 173rd Street
Lansing, IL 60438
VisitChicagoSouthland.com

PRESORT STANDARD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, IL
PERMIT NO. 170

CVB Welcomes New Board Member

Timothy Williams
Village Administrator



2020 CVBO Dates

Mark your calendars: the 2020 Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau Orientation dates have just been announced!

The CVBO is an overview of the programs, strategies and mission to bring visitors, conventions, trade shows, groups and events to the Chicago Southland region.

Orientations are open to interested members or potential new members. Orientations are held from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. at the Chicago Southland CVB office.

CVBO Dates (Tuesdays):

January 14	August 11
February 11	September 8
March 10	October 13
April 14	November 10
June 9	December 8
July 14	