



The Parks Chamber Legislative Event Series will be held from 4:00 - 6:00 PM Monthly on the Third Wednesday from February through November of 2022 at Forest Hills Country Club (5135 Forest Hills Road)

Each monthly event will feature the chef's selection of heavy hors d'oeuvres, and cash bars will be open for the duration of each event:

4:00 PM Networking Begins | 4:30 PM Welcome & Featured Speakers | 5:15 PM Networking Resumes  
RSVP @ ParksChamber.com



FEB 16



MAR 16



APR 20



MAY 18



JUN 15



JUL 20



AUG 17



SEP 21



OCT 19



OCT 19



NOV 16



February 16

2022

# STATE OF THE AIRPORT



## Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD) Executive Director **Michael P. Dunn**

Mike is a former assistant to Governor James R. Thompson of Illinois and remains extremely involved in governmental and political issues at the local, regional, state, and national level. From 2001 to 2010, Dunn served as a Commissioner on the Greater Rockford Airport Authority Board of Commissioners, with the last eight years serving as Board Chairman. In 2010, he was appointed to lead Federal and State lobbying efforts for our region in both Springfield and Washington D.C. In 2011, Dunn returned to the Airport as Director and then began his role as Executive Director in 2012. Mike and his wife Linda have been married for 45 years and are lifelong residents of Rockford. They have three children and eight grandchildren.



**RSVP @ [ParksChamber.com](https://ParksChamber.com)**



March 16

2022

# STATE OF THE COUNTY



## Winnebago County Board Chairman **Joseph V. Chiarelli**

Chairman Chiarelli was born and raised in Winnebago County. He is the son of a small business owner and spent more than 20 years working with his father at Vince the Tailor, where he learned about service to others and the importance of treating people with respect and honesty. As an Alderman, Chairman Chiarelli was at the forefront of every major issue facing the City of Rockford since 2013. Being well respected among his colleagues, he was encouraged to run for Winnebago County Board Chairman and has served in that role since November of 2020. He lives in Rockford and has been married for 33 years to his wife Connie. Together, they have two adult children and a grandson.



**RSVP @ [ParksChamber.com](https://ParksChamber.com)**



April 20

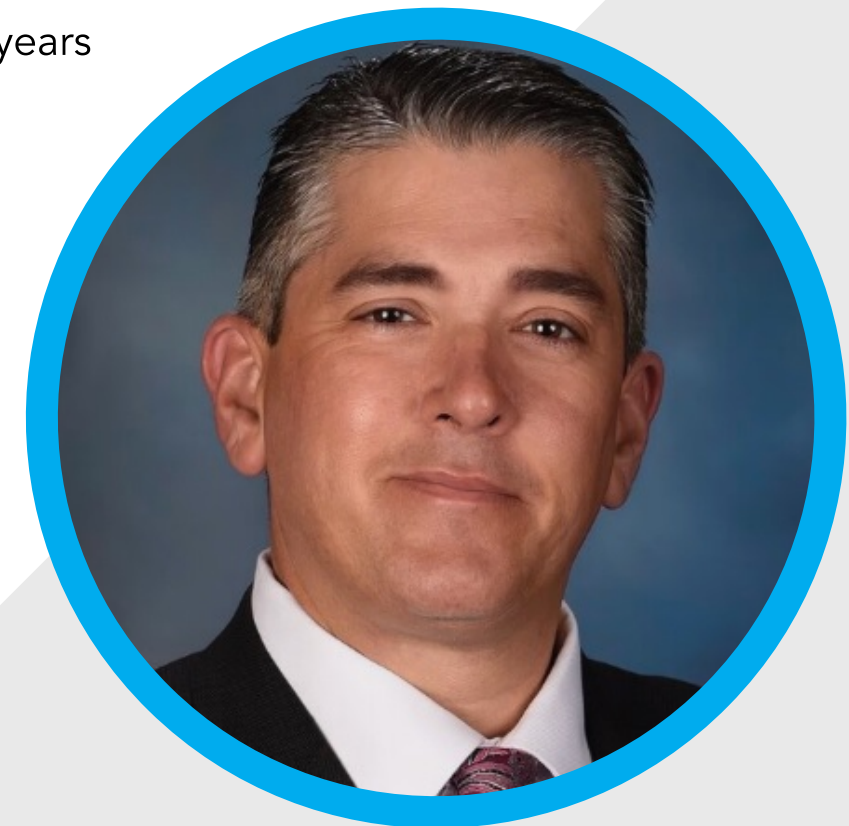
2022

# STATE OF THE STATE



## Illinois State Representative **Dave Vella**

68th District State Representative Dave Vella has lived in the Stateline his whole life. He worked 25 years as a public defender and criminal defense attorney in his family firm and was then elected as State Representative in 2020. In his legislative role, Representative Vella has been collaborating with regional leaders and advocating in Springfield, emphasizing legislation that supports the retention and attraction of manufacturing jobs. He recently sponsored the just passed Reimagining Electric Vehicles (REV) in Illinois Act, which is a groundbreaking program that is designed to bolster Illinois electric vehicle manufacturing. He has been married for 21 years to his wife Michelle, and they have two children.



**RSVP @ [ParksChamber.com](https://ParksChamber.com)**



May 18

2022

# STATE OF THE STATE



## Illinois State Representative **Joe Sosnowski**

State Representative Joe Sosnowski represents Illinois' 69th District, which includes portions of Boone and Winnebago Counties. A member of the Illinois General Assembly since 2011, he is an advocate for families, taxpayers, and job creators throughout the Stateline region. Representative Sosnowski is a graduate of Northern Illinois University. He was twice elected to the Rockford City Council, where he served as First Ward Alderman until being elected to the Illinois House of Representatives. He was also Director of Institutional Advancement at Rockford Christian Schools until 2020. Representative Sosnowski is a member of Stateline Community Church and lives in Rockford with his wife, Roxanne, and their three children.



**RSVP @ [ParksChamber.com](https://ParksChamber.com)**



June 15

2022

# STATE OF THE STATE

## Illinois State Representative **Maurice West II**

State Representative Maurice West is serving his second term representing the 67th District, and he serves on the Legislative Ethics Commission and six other committees. Representative West is particularly proud of his work to enhance worker skills in our community by bringing over \$2 Million for training and youth employment. He is also a strong advocate for mental health and restorative justice. Prior to becoming a legislator, Representative West worked in career development within higher education in Rockford. He is an ordained minister and is heavily involved with community organizations throughout our region. He is married to his beautiful wife, Leslie, and they are proud parents of Brein McKenzie, who was born in September of 2020.



**RSVP @ [ParksChamber.com](https://ParksChamber.com)**



July 20

2022

# STATE OF THE STATE



## Illinois State Senator **Dave Syverson**

Since joining the Senate in 1993 as a citizen legislator, State Senator Dave Syverson has been a reformer, pushing to fix Illinois' broken ways. He created the Illinois Manufacturing caucus with the to focus on educating legislators on the importance of the manufacturing industry in Illinois. In addition to his work on economic issues, Senator Syverson has sponsored and passed over 100 pieces of legislation aimed at improving the quality of life for Illinois families and taxpayers. He currently serves in the Senate Republican Leadership and has the distinction of being the Dean of the Senate. He also serves on the Senate Healthcare, Insurance, Tourism, and Hospitality Committees; the Executive Committee; and the bipartisan Government Forecasting and Accountability Commission.



**RSVP @ [ParksChamber.com](https://ParksChamber.com)**



August 17

2022

# STATE OF THE STATE



## Illinois State Senator **Steve Stadelman**

State Senator Stadelman is an award-winning TV news anchor and father of four who ran for Senate because his experiences as a journalist and parent convinced him of the need for fresh, common-sense representation. In his first year, he passed a bill to upgrade local youth sports facilities after resolving a disagreement between the Rockford Park District and local union leaders over responsible bidding practices. Subsequent efforts protected consumers, patients, abuse victims, and students. In 2019, he prevailed on two initiatives that had been stalled for years: He co-sponsored and helped pass legislation to allow a casino in Rockford and secured \$275 Million toward development of passenger rail between Chicago and Rockford. He is a two-time Legislator of the Year.



**RSVP @ [ParksChamber.com](https://ParksChamber.com)**





September 21

2022

# STATE OF THE SCHOOLS



## Harlem Consolidated School District 122 Superintendent Dr. Terrell Yarbrough

Ronald Terrell Yarbrough was named Superintendent of Harlem Consolidated School District #122 in July of 2021 after a 20-year career in education to include eight years as Principal of Harlem High School and work with public, private, charter, and parochial schools. Dr. Yarbrough earned his Doctor of Education degree from Aurora University, his Master's degree from Marquette University, and his Undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Dr. Yarbrough is an avid sports fan, and he has coached both basketball and track at the high school level. He is dedicated to focusing resources and energy on helping diverse learners realize they have unlimited potential through academic programming at all levels Pre-K through Grade 12.



**RSVP @ [ParksChamber.com](https://ParksChamber.com)**



October 19

2022

# STATE OF THE PARKS



## City of Loves Park Mayor **Greg Jury**

Mayor Jury was sworn in on May 1, 2017 to become the 9th Mayor of the City of Loves Park. He has served Loves Park since 1999 as an Alderman for the 1st Ward. Mayor Jury is a Harlem High School graduate and a lifelong resident of Loves Park. His entry into public service as an Alderman was driven by both his desire to serve his community and his focus on ensuring that individuals in elected positions are advocating for the business community while also providing real, fiscal oversight for the citizens. Mayor Jury has been a taxpayer advocate, working to ensure that Loves Park never has a property tax.



## Village of Machesney Park Mayor **Steve Johnson**

Mayor Steve Johnson has served as an elected official in Machesney Park since 2005. He served ten years as Village Treasurer and two years as Village Trustee for District 2 before being elected Village President in April 2017. Mayor Johnson is happily married to his wife Diana, and he often travels to the southwest suburbs to visit his son's family. Aside from public service, Mayor Johnson worked 44 years as a Pharmacist, 24 years of which were for CVS Pharmacy. Mayor Johnson is deeply devoted to Machesney Park, its schools, and service organizations, especially those serving veterans and retired folks.



**RSVP @ [ParksChamber.com](https://ParksChamber.com)**



November 16

2022

# STATE OF THE PARK DISTRICT



## Executive Director of Rockford Park District **Jay Sandine**

Jay Sandine has been the Executive Director of Rockford Park District since May of 2017. Parks and recreation is his life, as his grandfather and father were park superintendents. He earned his MBA from Rockford University and began his career with the Park District in 1996, managing golf courses, police, Sportscore Complexes, aquatics, ice facilities, park maintenance, food and beverage, and more. Sandine has served on a variety of boards and committees for organizations such as Alignment Rockford and RACVB and led numerous community partnerships with organizations such as RPS 205, YMCA, Rockford IceHogs, and the Harkins Community Memorial Foundation.



**RSVP @ [ParksChamber.com](https://ParksChamber.com)**



**RSVP @ ParksChamber.com**



**Questions**  
815.633.3999

# Informational Tables

All events will feature display tables by federal, state, and local organizations that offer free and confidential services to businesses and entrepreneurs.



## IL Dept of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

DCEO provide targeted referrals and counseling for economic opportunities to businesses, including site selection; customized workforce training; regional and local collaboration; expedited permitting, licensing and other approvals; connection to key stakeholders and civic and business partners; and potential financial support to include small businesses recovery grants for those hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Illinois Small Business Development Center

The SBDC provides information, confidential business guidance, training, and other resources for start-ups and existing small businesses to include free and confidential business advising, a professional referral network, access to capital, technology development, assistance to minority business owners, and more.



## The Workforce Connection

TWC is the local workforce development board that provides a fully integrated and accessible workforce development system that balances the needs of individuals and businesses to ensure our region has a skilled workforce to effectively compete in the global economy. TWC provides regional employers with business services that make organizations more competitive, improve productivity, create new revenue streams, and improve acquisition and retention of valued employees.



## U.S. Commercial Service

The U.S. Commercial Service recently hired a Director of International Trade, who provides free and confidential support to businesses in the Northwest Illinois territory by promoting trade, exports, and investment to help U.S. organizations compete at home and abroad.