



WESTERN AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTER

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2025

WHATS NEW!

Senior Programs:

Our new American Sign Language (ASL) class will provide an opportunity for seniors to learn this valuable communication skill. Additionally, we have Senior Talk this consists of discussions that revolve around shared life experiences. This promotes social engagement, reduces feelings of loneliness, enhance their communication, etc. Finally, our Senior Day of Play will encourage active participation through card games and crafts!

Western Avenue Community Center's "More Than Basketball" program provided an exciting season of growth, competition, and camaraderie for local youth. With six teams across 4th-5th grade and 6th-7th grade divisions, a total of 60 boys took part in round-robin league and played each Friday evening and Saturday morning. The competition heated up as the season concluded with playoffs leading to an exciting championship showdown. Beyond the scoreboard, the season was about developing important life skills, such as teamwork, self-discipline, and individual responsibility. Coach Twjuan Scott reinforced these values using motivational videos to inspire the players to push themselves on and off the court. A special thank you goes to our dedicated volunteer coaches, Marcus Tucker and Corey Bird whose time and energy helped shape a positive experience for all. With such a strong foundation and great outcomes to build on, we look forward to another fantastic season ahead! We are excited to announce the launch of four new senior programs at the center, designed to enrich the lives of our seniors and provide even more opportunities for engagement and growth. In addition, we are also excited to introduce our Willie Brown Leadership Program. We are ensuring that we continue to serve as an essential hub for both seniors and youth in our community.



UPCOMING: BASEBALL PROGRAM

We are thrilled to announce that our upcoming baseball program season for youth ages 8 to 14 practices kick off soon! This exciting opportunity allows young athletes to develop their skills, engage in teamwork, and make lasting friendships all while enjoying the great game of baseball. We can't wait to see all the enthusiastic players on the field, ready to hit home runs and create unforgettable memories this season!

UPCOMING: RYAN PEDON NIGHT

We are excited to announce an upcoming event featuring Ryan Pedon, the head basketball coach at Illinois State University, who will share his insights and experiences while supporting Western Avenue Community Center. This special night will not only raise funds and awareness for the center, but it will also provide an opportunity for attendees to gain valuable knowledge from Coach Pedon about leadership, teamwork, and the art of coaching. This event will be held on June 11th, 2025. We hope everyone comes together to support our community, learn from a distinguished coach, and contribute to the growth and success of our programs at Western Avenue!

UPCOMING: WESTERN AVENUE WEDNESDAYS

Starting in May, we are thrilled to launch Western Avenue Wednesdays, which will take place on every third Wednesday through September at Hacienda Leon in Uptown Normal. This "After Hours" event aims to raise awareness about Western Avenue Community Center while providing a wonderful opportunity for community members to mingle and meet our dedicated staff, board members, and partnerships. With live music filling the Uptown Circle and face painting available for kids, this family-friendly gathering promises to be a fun-filled evening for all ages. Join us as we celebrate our community and share the exciting programs and initiatives happening at Western Avenue Community Center.



ARTIST PLAYING IN UPTOWN:

May 21st: Kyle Yap

June 18th: Sass Siders

July 16th: Kill the Martian

August 20th: Party Cannon

September 17th: Dan Hubbard

Please Visit The Following For More Information
About Our Programs and Upcoming Events:

Website: www.westernaveunue.org

Facebook: @WesternAvenueCommunityCenter

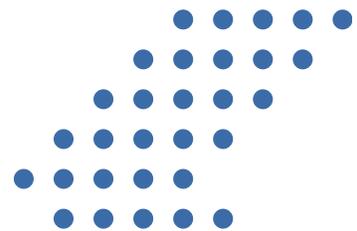
COMMUNITY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SENIOR PROGRAMS



Our Senior Programs are designed to highlight the importance of community and well-being among senior citizens by offering a safe and welcoming environment. These programs not only foster social connections but also promote health and fitness. Micky has been attending our senior programs for three years now! Here is what Micky has to say about her experience in our senior programs: "Coming to the center has always felt like a welcoming experience for me, where both the staff and fellow participants create a warm, at-home atmosphere that makes me comfortable. My favorite programs are the senior fitness sessions and the senior day of play. Senior fitness gets me up and moving. Orman provides us encouragement and helpful advice on our senior bodies. Senior day of play allows me to share my hobbies and engage in creative activities, from painting rocks for gardens to making watercolor greeting cards and even exploring embroidery. I believe that Western Avenue Community Center is crucial for our community. It fosters opportunities for those of us on the west side to engage in revitalization efforts while supporting a diverse environment for seniors, youth, families and groups in need."

PICTURES FROM OUR SENIOR PROGRAMS 2025



UPCOMING SUMMER PROGRAM



WILLIE BROWN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:

The Willie Brown Leadership Program is set to kick off on June 2nd, offering an enriching experience designed to empower 30 youth over the month of June. The Willie Brown Leadership program is named in honor of Willie Brown. He was heavily involved in activities at Western Avenue and went on to do a lot of great and phenomenal things with nonprofits. This program is based upon 5 pillars: responsibility, accountability, integrity, leadership, and service. This free program is offered to 30 students within the Bloomington-Normal school districts. Classes and learning sessions will take place from Tuesdays through Thursdays, focusing on leadership skills, teamwork, and personal development. Each Friday will feature exciting and educational field trips! The very last field trip the youth will be going to Six Flags in St.Louis. These field trips provide knowledge but also provide plenty of fun and memorable experiences. The participants that are a part of this program get to form new friendships and learn new skills. Here are the following companies/organizations who we are partnering with for this program: Illinois State University, Junior Achievement, State Farm, Heartland Community College, Hip Cat Music School, Integrity, YouthBuild, and University of Illinois Extension.

PICTURES FROM LAST SUMMERS PROGRAM:

