



TERRA COSTA HOWARD

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 42

Dear Terra,

After a busy and productive legislative session, we passed another balanced State budget – again proving that we can be both compassionate and fiscally responsible. Although I don't agree with every single line item in this 1,400-page budget, I am proud that the State of Illinois is committing resources to programs and services that expand opportunity and create a brighter future for people throughout Illinois.

The budget for the next fiscal year continues the work of rebuilding Illinois' fiscal house. Our rainy day fund has grown to more than \$1.7 billion, which will help us keep things running if revenues come up short in future years. We are also stabilizing Illinois' public pension systems by going above and beyond our required pension payment to reduce liabilities. With smart decision-making, we've paid down debt and earned our state eight credit rating increases in less than two years.



We're continuing to support public schools by committing \$350 million in new funding for classroom education in this budget. Over the last four years, we've put more than \$1.3 billion in new funds into our public school classrooms. We're also helping to make college more affordable by making major investments in college financial aid programs, including \$100 million in new funding for the MAP grant program, for Illinois students with demonstrated financial need. We're also expanding the AIM HIGH scholarship program, which provides funds to Illinois students who attend one of our great public universities.

Our budget also gives communities some additional tools to hold the line on property taxes by committing more than \$100 million in new funding through the local government distributive fund.

We still have lots of work ahead of us, but this new budget demonstrates continuing fiscal responsibility while prioritizing investments that will build our economy and strengthen communities across our state.

(Stay tuned for next week's legislative recap!)

Supporting artists with mental illnesses through The Awakenings Project

Van Gogh's *The Starry Night*. Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Edgar Allen Poe's *The Raven*. When I read about the lives of great artists, I am constantly amazed by how many painters, playwrights, poets, and others created breathtaking works while living with mental illness.



It's painful to think about how many deeply creative people have been stigmatized because of their mental illnesses. So I wanted you to hear about my conversation this

week with Robert Lundin, (pictured at right), founder and President of The Awakenings Project.

Robert explained that the Awakenings Project is a grassroots initiative in the Chicago suburbs, whose mission is to foster, advance, and support the creative efforts of artists with mental illnesses and/or addictions. The Awakenings Project also works to raise public awareness, acceptance, and appreciation of art by people in recovery.

The Awakenings Project is one of just a handful of organizations that curate art shows of this kind at national or local venues. They also publish *The Awakenings Review*, to showcase the work of editors, artists, writers, and poets with mental illnesses.

The Awakenings Project helps people find the support of community, develop their skills, and discover confidence. If you would like to learn more about The Awakenings Project or subscribe to *The Awakenings Review*, you can click [here](#).

You're invited to celebrate at the Lombard Pride Fest on SATURDAY

You can kick off Pride Month by celebrating at the Lombard Pride Fest from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, at First Church of Lombard, 220 S. Main St.

Enjoy live music, food trucks, and activities for children and adults. You can click [here](#) for more information.



Get ready! It's time for COD's WARHOL!

The Andy Warhol Exhibit is almost here! On Saturday, June 3, the Cleve Carney Museum of Art will unveil WARHOL, featuring “Andy Warhol Portfolios: A Life in Pop | Works from the Bank of America Collection,” in the McAninch Arts Center at the College of DuPage campus, at 425 Fawell Blvd. in Glen Ellyn.

Tickets are available at warhol2023.org or by calling (630) 942-4000. Discounts are available for groups of 20 or more. Tickets include admission to on-site lectures by renowned authors and Warhol experts, as well as concerts and many more cool and educational events.

I'm really excited that villages throughout DuPage County are holding Warhol-themed events to support this amazing exhibit. Click [here](#) for an event list.



Cream of Wheaton continues this weekend

I feel like there ought to be more festivals named for hot cereals, don't you? (See what I did there?)

Farina-body who is looking for a great event to kick off summer, look no further than Cream of Wheaton! This annual festival offers live entertainment, kids' activities, carnival rides, an arts & crafts fair, a beer garden, and food vendors!

Cream of Wheaton runs through this Sunday, June 4 at Memorial Park, 225 Karlskoga Ave. You can click [here](#) to see the entire event schedule and entertainment lineup.



Summer Read Kick-Off Party in Lisle SATURDAY

Summer Read 2023 is here! Join the Lisle Library District for this year's kick-off party with donuts, coffee, and fun.

There will be several traveling exhibits from the DuPage Children's Museum, as well as a giant inflatable slide to help kids dive into reading. (Well, maybe not literally...) Best of all, you can sign up for this year's summer reading program. Prizes and adventure await you!

The Summer Read-Kick Off will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Lisle Library District, 777 Front Street. You can click [here](#) for more information.



Wear Orange to support the Moms Demand Action Glen Ellyn vigil on SATURDAY

I hope you will join Moms Demand Action Glen Ellyn for a Wear Orange discussion and vigil from 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, at People's Community Church, 670 S. Lambert Road in Glen Ellyn.

On January 21, 2013, Hadiya Pendleton marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago. Soon after this tragedy, Hadiya's friends commemorated her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to be visible and protect themselves from accidental shootings.



Ten years later, thousands of people wear orange shirts every June to honor Hadiya and the 40,000 Americans who are killed with guns each year.

You can learn more about Wear Orange at wearorange.org. You can also click [here](#) to register for Moms Demand Action's Wear Orange Vigil.

PhilanthroParty at COD on TUESDAY

The DuPage Prevention Leadership Team (PLT) and Reality Illinois/the Teen Advisory Board are hosting their annual Teen PhilanthroParty, which brings DuPage County high school students together to connect and learn leadership skills.

This year's PhilanthroParty will include an energetic presentation by mental health advocate Brittany Richmond.

The event, which kicks off the Reality Advisory Board's weekly Summer of Service Series, will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6, in Room 1020 of the Institutional Resource Center at the College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd.

For more information, you can contact Gilda Ross at gilda_ross@glenbard.org or click [here](#) to register for the event. Students are invited to bring along a food item to donate.

Celebrate Downers Grove's new playground with Party in the Park THURSDAY

With summer finally here, it's time for kids to get outdoors and play. So I encourage you to bring the children in your life to Party in the Park, the Downers Grove Park District celebration of the new playground at Dunham Place Park, at 71st Street and Dexter Road.



The party will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. next Thursday, June 8. Free activities will include DJ Coach Josh with music and fun, a bug hunt and a craft, plus games and giveaways. You can click [here](#) to learn more.

Hey, young wannabe pop stars! Check out the the Anima/Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus Summer Camp

Anima/Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus is inviting young performers to take part in its summer camp, *Be a Pop Star!* for rising 3rd-6th graders. The camp will present technique and music theory through the lens of pop music

Anima/Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus is a world-renowned children's chorus founded in 1964. The group has performed numerous times through the years with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, tours nationally and internationally, and has been recognized with awards from Chorus America.

The two camp sessions, June 12-16 and July 10-14, will be taught by the chorus' artistic director, Evan Bruno, in their rehearsal space at the Glen Ellyn Park District's Main Street Recreation Center, at 501 Hill Ave.

Campers will develop their own pop personas and come away with a curated playlist of songs that they can share with the whole family! You can click [here](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events

We have lots of events coming up, so please take a look and mark your calendars today!

June 9: [Glen Ellyn Park District's Teen Splash Bash](#) from 8 to 9:30 p.m. at Sunset Pool, 483 Fairview Ave.

June 10: NAMI DuPage's [Run for the Mind 5k Run/Walk](#) at the DuPage Event Center & Fairgrounds: 2015 Manchester Road, N. County Farm Road, Wheaton

June 11: [Lisle Woman's Club's 2023 Garden Gait](#) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., starting at the Museum at Lisle Station Park, 921 School St.

June 14: [Movie in the Park in Glen Ellyn](#) Watch Minions: The Rise of Gru under the stars, starting at 7:30 p.m.

June 17: My office is hosting a Shred Event at the Lombard Village Hall, 255 E. Wilson Ave, from 9 a.m. to noon.

June 17: [Stuff the Squad Car in Glen Ellyn](#) from 8 a.m. to noon at the Glen Ellyn Police Department, 65 S. Park Blvd. Help the Glen Ellyn Police Department stuff a squad car with non-perishable food items benefiting the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry.

June 17: [May the Course Be with You Tournament](#) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holes & Knolls, 845 Pershing Ave., Glen Ellyn

June 21: [Glen Ellyn Park District's Jazz in the Park](#) from 7 to 9 p.m. at Maryknoll Park, 845 Pershing Ave., Glen Ellyn

June 27: Our monthly [Food and Blood Drive](#) with the Glen Ellyn Park District and Kiwanis Club of Central DuPage at Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center, 800 St. Charles Road, Glen Ellyn

June 30: [Summer Break at the Lake](#) from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Lake Ellyn Park, 645 Lenox Road, Glen Ellyn

If you have any questions about pending legislation or other issues related to your state

BE A POP STAR!
Anima Summer Singing Camp

FOR SINGERS ENTERING GRADES 3-6
Learn how to sing and dance like a pop star with your favorite singers like Taylor, Harry, and Bruno. Plus, learn about the pop stars that inspired a generation!

**JUNE 12-16
OR JULY 10-14
9AM-12PM**
@ Main Street Rec Center

SIGN UP TODAY!
\$25 early bird discount if you sign up by March 31

SCAN ME

630.858.2473
animasingers.org
singinmasingers.org

government, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 630-812-9292 or RepTCH42@gmail.com.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay strong,



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