

Caterina Bonura Brings Feeling of Home to McDonald's



Whether you only visit the McDonald's at 72 Stratford Drive occasionally, or whether you are one of the many "regulars" there, you probably know Caterina Bonura.

More than seven years ago, Bonura began working as the hostess of this Bear Family McDonald's, where a group of regulars who spend their mornings there have become like family and she has become a "local celebrity." Customers go there "because they feel like they are visiting her home." She received the 2023 "Crew Person of the Year" award and is often complimented; one restaurant review states "If you are looking for a friendly restaurant to go for a sandwich and to feel at home, this is definitely the place to visit."

Caterina speaks very highly of Bear Family Restaurants (BFR) President David Bear and staff. BFR has a history of philanthropy and their employees dedicate hundreds of hours volunteering.

Caterina's warm personality is part of her Italian heritage. She and her husband Joe moved from Palermo, Sicily in 1962, living in Chicago before making Bloomingdale their home in 1970. She recalls "at the time there were no streets, just a lot of dust!" She still lives in the home on Schick Road that they built 52 years ago (Joe literally built the house - he laid the bricks); it is where they raised their daughter and son. Although her husband passed away 12 years ago, she has no plans on moving until "God takes her." She welcomes visitors and loves to cook for them!

In her recollections of life in Bloomingdale, she remembers when both Stratford Mall and Indian Lakes didn't exist. She saw both structures being built, and for 20 years she worked at Indian Lakes, retiring at 60 years old to take care of her husband when he became ill.

For many people, home is more than the physical place where they reside, it is within their hearts. For 83-year-old Caterina Bonura, home is the feeling of being cared for. She provides the feeling of a welcoming home and gracious hospitality wherever she goes, turning strangers into family.

Stop by the McDonald's at 72 Stratford Drive where she will welcome you with the warmth of home and plenty of good stories.

Holiday Weekend Expanded Dial-a-Ride Hours Runs Through December 31

Pace Dial-A-Ride will offer extended holiday weekend hours available from Saturday, November 25 and running through Sunday, December 31, 2023.

The Dial-A-Ride paratransit bus service provides pre-arranged curb-to-curb service for all residents. Discounted rates are available for seniors 65 and older, students, and persons with disabilities whose eligibility has been determined by the regional certification process. During the holidays, the Dial-A-Ride bus will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sundays, excluding Christmas Day when the bus is closed.

The Dial-A-Ride service area includes Bloomingdale Township and the following locations:

- AMITA Health, Alexian Brothers Medical Center and Campus (including Dialysis Center at 935 Beisner Rd)
- Alexian Brothers Day Rehab Center at 701 Biesterfield Rd, Elk Grove Village
- DuPage Oncology Clinic
- Mona Kea Medical Complex
- Wheaton Medical Group
- Wheaton Eye Clinic
- Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital
- AMITA Health, Adventist Medical Center, Glen Oaks Hospital
- DuPage County Complex, East & West side of County Farm Road
- Kenneth Moy Convalescence Center

To make reservations, call 800-713-7445 or TTY 800-713-7415, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Reservations will be accepted beginning the Thursday prior to the week service is desired. Same-day reservations may be accepted if there is availability.

Wishing You the Merriest of Holidays

The Bloomingdale Village Hall holiday closings:

Christmas:

Monday, December 25, 2023 & Tuesday, December 26, 2023

New Year's:

Monday, January 1, 2024 & Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Service delays for the curbside residential refuse and recycling collections performed by SBC Waste Solutions for both Christmas and New Year's Day:

- **Monday, December 25** -Curbside pickup will be delayed one day for this week.
- **Monday, January 1** -Curbside pickup will be delayed one day for this week.

During both of the holiday weeks:

Tuesday collection will be on Wednesday

Wednesday collection will be on Thursday

Thursday collection will be on Friday

Warm wishes to all for safe and happy holidays from the elected officials and staff at the Village of Bloomingdale.

