

ELMHURST ■ OAK BROOK

Suburban Life

MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2016

WHAT A RIDE!

MIMI BLACK talks of
career and community
in the place she calls
home **PAGE 7**

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Editor's Note

Imagine all the stories of your community – your shops, your neighbors, your restaurants – presented to you beautifully in a magazine worthy of a sunny morning with a cup of coffee.

Now you have it.

Suburban Life Magazine presents its Elmhurst/Oak Brook edition, filled with everything you need to know about the people, places, and events happening in your hometown.

Every season, you'll get a magazine focused on you, with an expanded local calendar of events, community artisans, outstanding volunteers and interesting city businesses.

In this summer edition, we take a ride on the Explore Elmhurst trolley with longtime resident Mimi Black, whose voice echoes through the seats with stories of Elmhurst history.

We honor Elmhurst arts advocate and event planner Roz Long, one of our 2016 Women of Distinction winners.

We stop in for a sweet treat at Nothing Bundt Cakes, go fashion hunting on the streets of downtown Elmhurst, and chill out with a cool traveling exhibit at the Elmhurst Historical Museum.

And as you stroll from stop to stop with us, we hope you'll discover something new about your own hometown, in your Suburban Life Magazine!

Thanks for reading-



Sherri Dauskurdas
Editor



on the COVER

Elmhurst resident Mimi Black is the voice of the Explore Elmhurst Trolley, the city's whimsical weekend transit option.

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Photo by Aldo Risolvo
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Suburban Life

Suburban Life Magazine

Published by Shaw Media

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Suburban Life Magazine is available by subscription for \$24 a year. If you would like each month's edition mailed to your home, send payment information and address to Suburban Life Magazine, 7717 S. Route 31, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 or via email at subscriptions@shawmedia.com.

WHAT A RIDE!



Elmhurst's Mimi Black talks community, career and camaraderie in the city she calls home

Photos by ALDO RISOLVO

There are a few like her in every community.

Those special people who just seem to know everybody in town, are tuned in to all that happens in their communities, and greet folks everywhere they go with more than the typical pleasantries.

Suburban Life Magazine Editor Sherri Dauskurdas stopped in at Elijah's Coffee and Tea on Vallette to share a cup of coffee and some conversation with just such a person: Elmhurst's Mimi Black.

Mimi is a 17-year resident of the city, a staunch

supporter of the library and the school system and the voice you'll hear on the Explore Elmhurst Trolley as you take a tour through the city. (For those of you who haven't visited the Vallette St. Elijah's, it's just a few steps from the trolley stop at York and Vallette). Her accidental career in voiceovers has allowed her to remain active in the city she loves.

Here's a bit of the morning's conversation:

SHERRI - What do you like most about life in Elmhurst?

MIMI - You know, I'm a transplant, originally from the East Coast, and in 1999, I was a newbie to the city, with two kids. It is quite a large community, while it has a small town feel. Here in Elmhurst, people recognize that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. People get involved. They speak up and speak out. They are invested, and the results show in town.

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SHERRI - I read in your professional biography that you are psychologist by training. How did you get involved in voiceover work?

MIMI - It's thanks to my graduate student office location in Brandeis' psychology department that I began my career in voice-overs. My office was directly adjacent to one occupied by students who were studying the effects of aging on memory. They were putting together audio tapes and needed someone to record long strings of words and phrases. After weeks of listening to the outgoing message on my answering machine in the office next door, someone got the idea I would be good for the job. Word of mouth took hold, and I was doing books for the blind, and then professional voiceovers. Soon I had an agent, and was recording books for the National Library Service and featuring in radio and television commercials.

SHERRI - What do you like most about the job?

MIMI - We pick up so much from a person's voice. We know their mood, whether or not they are tired, upset, agitated, happy. So that plays into my work in psychology and even some acting. When I moved to Chicago it was such a huge opportunity with all the media located here. And I got to continue some of

my work in psychology --I worked with Imagination Theater and the Chicago Public Schools on an anti-bullying program, made presentations to educators and parents, and participated in the "Ease the Tease" program, a theatre-based initiative designed at curbing the teasing which often grows into bullying. In addition to that, the wide array of work, from corporate training to commercials to romance novels, keeps it interesting.

Also, it has allowed me to stay an involved mom while my kids grow up here in Elmhurst. Advances in technology have allowed me to have a home studio where I do a lot of my voiceover work, sometimes in the wee hours of the night in my fuzzy bedroom slippers. I have been able to craft a career without giving up home life, which was really important to me.

SHERRI - And now you get to be the voice of an Elmhurst tourism initiative, as the "tour director" aboard the Explore Elmhurst Trolley. How does that make you feel?

MIMI - It really is something! I get to be an authentic cheerleader for this magnificent town! I hope out comes through in the final product.



Explore Elmhurst like never before, and ride in style!!

Tired of driving? Looking for a cool alternative to your weekend stroll? This summer, come aboard the free Explore Elmhurst Express trolley service, running weekends through September 18.

The trolley service connects downtown Elmhurst with the Spring Road business district and York and Vallette business district. Special Explore Elmhurst signs will mark each stop, and parking is conveniently located near each trolley stop.

Trolley riders will learn about highlighted areas of the city through a trolley narrative, recorded by Elmhurst resident and voice professional, Mimi Black. Whether you're an out-of-towner or a longtime resident, Explore Elmhurst has created the ultimate Elmhurst experience, with prizes and giveaways all season long.

First, you will need to pick up a FREE Explore Elmhurst ticket booklet. Tickets can be found on board the Explore Elmhurst Express Trolley, and at select locations throughout town including: City Hall, Elmhurst History Museum, Elmhurst Public Library, Elmhurst Art Museum, Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art, Wagner Community Center, Elmhurst City Centre Office, and the Elmhurst College Frick Center.

Once you have your tickets, it's time to EXPLORE! Drop the tickets off at participating locations and enter-to-win weekly prizes! Visit ExploreElmhurst.com/tickets for ticket drop-off locations, prizes and official sweepstakes rules.