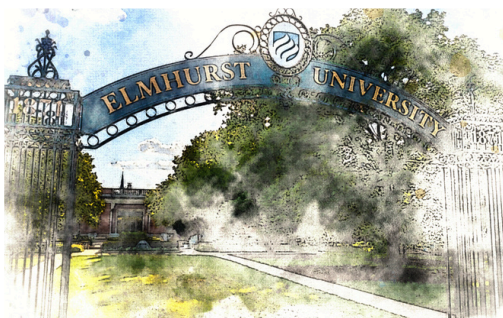
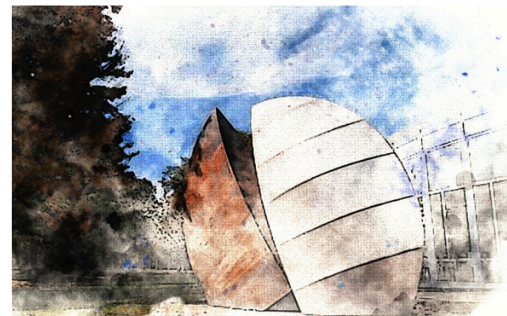
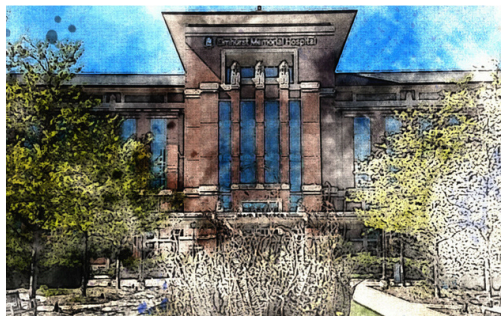


# Distinctly<sup>TM</sup> ELMHURST



As *Elmhurst Magazine* approaches its third anniversary, we remain committed to spotlighting the people, organizations, and businesses that make this such a vibrant community. We're inviting local businesses to join the *Distinctly Elmhurst* feature in our September 2025 issue. This is a special opportunity to promote your brand, share your story, thank your loyal customers, and show community pride.

You'll be featured alongside editorial content (in Faces & Places) about influential local leaders, including:

- Mayor Scott Levin
- Dave Oberg, Elmhurst History Museum
- Allison Quinn, Elmhurst Art Museum
- Jennifer Veremis, Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce
- James Rogers, Elmhurst Park District

As a *Distinctly Elmhurst* subject, you'll receive:

- A custom-designed full-page ad with your photo, logo, quote, and contact info. (Faces & Places)
- Need a photo? Call for information.
- A *Distinctly Elmhurst* badge to highlight your participation

It's your moment to shine. Call to place your advertisement—Space is limited!

All materials must be submitted by **August 8th**.

# ELMHURST

MAGAZINE

Contact: [graphics@hinsdalemag.com](mailto:graphics@hinsdalemag.com) | 630-655-3400 | [HinsdaleMagazineGroup.com](http://HinsdaleMagazineGroup.com)



“Coffee isn’t just a drink, it’s a spark. Each cup is a chance to uplift someone, to say they matter. That’s what fuels us.”

— PETER THOMAS

**P**eter Thomas, better known as “Pilot Pete,” isn’t your average coffee shop owner. At just 19 years old, he opened Pilot Pete’s Coffee & Treats inside the Elmhurst Metra Station, blending his passion for coffee with a bigger mission—community kindness.

Inspired by his grandmother June, who brought him along to volunteer at shelters and VA hospitals, Pete grew up knowing the power of compassion. That spirit became the foundation of his business.

In 2015, Pete launched “Coffee With a Purpose” with a simple idea: collect winter coats for people living on Chicago’s streets. He expected a few dozen donations—within two days, nearly 3,000 poured in. The response was overwhelming, and the effort hasn’t slowed since. Today, his team has distributed over 40,000 coats and winter supplies, along with hot coffee, snacks, and dignity.

Twice a month during the winter, Pete transforms a 26-foot moving truck, shelter stocked with essentials. He and volunteers drive across Chicago, visiting tent communities and offering not just items, but connection. Conversations, smiles, and shared humanity are as important as the coats themselves.

Pete’s generosity also extends back to his shop. Every other Friday, 20% of Pilot Pete’s proceeds are donated to a customer-nominated charity or family in need. Whether through caffeine or community, his business exists to uplift.

Despite media attention and local praise, Pete remains humble. He credits volunteers, supportive customers, and local partners. For him, it’s about showing up, giving back, and reminding others that small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

With a warm heart and a strong brew, Pilot Pete’s is more than a coffee shop—it’s a daily reminder of the good in people.



Pilot Pete’s Coffee & Treats  
128 West 1st Street — In the Metra Station  
(630) 454-8060  
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