

For Immediate Publication

April 20, 2012

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## Tinley Park Convention Center's Exclusive Features Rare in Industry

Tinley Park, IL - The glow in Alan Rosenzweig's heart comes from another glow – the new concourse at the [Tinley Park Convention Center](#). "At night," said Rosenzweig, "it just sparkles. It's an important feature of our expansion."

Light plays a significant role with the Center. "During the day, that concourse is awash with natural light. At night, it's stunning, with lighting fixtures that twinkle as you see the Center from outside." Rosenzweig, Vice-President of MidCon, is also delighted with the entire exterior.

"The old exterior look was industrial and didn't reflect our unique features inside. Now, the etched stone and glass walls are a true introduction to our features – both existing and those new with the expansion - many unique to this Convention Center."

Natural light is unusual in facilities of this size, but is important in site selection. Their two-tier lighting system is rare – and incomparable. "We can host events with bright lighting appropriate for exhibit-type expos and, by switching to theatrical lighting, we can give dinner dances, weddings and galas a dramatic atmosphere," said Rosenzweig.

Dramatic atmosphere was what Riverside Medical Group created when they held their annual gala at the Convention Center, complete with a Cirque de Soleil performance. "Aerialists bathed in spotlights and floods floated from the riggings mounted in our ceilings, which are substantially higher than most," said Daniel Fitzgerald, Sales Director, mentioning an additional bonus of the Center.

Another Tinley Park Convention Center amenity is almost unheard of. Instead of concrete floors, requiring shows to bring in expensive floorcoverings, the entire 70,450 square feet of function space is carpeted.

"The [Golf Show](#) loved it," affirmed Fitzgerald. "They are planning an indoor par 3 next year as the green carpet looks like a fairway. With the natural light, against the backdrop of our water features, it will seem like outdoors."

Now, more planners seeking to place larger shows and events are visiting the Center. "We have the space, both square feet and height. We have exceptional lighting options and we have that rarest of features, carpeting," said Rosenzweig. "Planners come expecting an ordinary facility. They leave completely wowed with our ambience and amenities."

And that really makes Rosenzweig's heart glow.



**ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.**

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June 28, 2012

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## **Harley Fans and Corvette Enthusiasts Agree On The Tinley Park Convention Center**

Tinley Park, IL – Two wheels or four wheels. Loud and rowdy or sleek and sexy. Leather jacket or leather interior. Hog riders and Vette drivers have a lot to disagree about. There is one thing, however, in which they are in perfect accord.

“We’re a great place to have a party,” says Daniel Fitzgerald, Sales Director of the [Tinley Park Convention Center](#).

Both organizations, and many more, have found Convention Center accommodations practically perfect.

For the [National Council of Corvette Clubs](#), the June 2011 Convention was a success. Attracted by the expansive free parking lots and the Center’s proximity to the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, the Council was also welcomed by the Village of Tinley Park itself. “The Village organized a parade of Corvettes, both classic and new, down the main street of Oak Park Avenue. Such support means a great deal to visitors and includes Village residents in the fun.” The Center was the site for receptions and awards while contestants vied in racing contests at the Autobahn and golfed at a nearby country club.

Convention Center receptions were also part of the 2010 Route 66 [Harley-Davidson](#) Tour. The Center was a rally point for over 500 bikers taking part in the legendary event. Participants crossing the country from Chicago to Los Angeles found the Center a welcome respite, enjoying the free parking like their Corvette counterparts, indulging in buffets and re-connecting with fellow riders.

The location of the Convention Center, at I-80 and Harlem Avenue, is minutes away from I-294, I-57, I-355, I-55 and I-94. “We’re perfectly situated to make the trip easily from downstate Illinois, from Chicago, from Indiana or even a straight shot from Iowa.”

For Corvette Clubs and Harley groups, the adjoining [Holiday Inn Hotel](#) is another point of agreement. “Having the Hotel on the same property as the Convention Center makes it so much easier on travelers. After the contests, awards and receptions, a clean, comfortable room is just steps away. We were pleased to see so many participants in both these groups stay with us.”

No matter how many wheels they champion, riders and drivers agree the Tinley Park Convention Center is the perfect destination.



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June 21, 2012

Contact: Daniel Fitzgerald, 708-342-5485, [d.fitzgerald@tphicc.com](mailto:d.fitzgerald@tphicc.com)

### **Tinley Park Convention Center Event is Anaconda of Reptile Shows**

Tinley Park, IL – It's not lions, tigers and bears, but snakes, lizards and tortoises. And there are hundreds of them, in March and in October each year, at the [Tinley Park Convention Center](#).

Over one hundred of the world's top reptile breeders participate in the [North American Reptile Breeders Conference \(NARBC\)](#). These breeders and their cold-blooded friends attract over 10,000 visitors throughout the two-day shows. Reptiles such as geckos, pythons and tortoises are displayed and sold, making great pets - especially for kids who love dinosaurs.

In 2003, the Center was the first location to host a show of this type and size. "We approached that first event with a good deal of caution," says Daniel Fitzgerald, Sales Director. "Live animals indoors – that can be a challenge in and of itself."

That inaugural show was very successful, with thousands meeting rare reptiles face-to-face. Animal control and crowd control were extremely effective. Now, handling this show is second nature. For nearly a decade, the Center has welcomed the NARBC and its animal celebrities twice a year.

Conference coordinators, ECO Publishing's Bob Ashley and Brian Potter of Chicago Reptile House, and Convention Center staff transform the exhibit hall into a miniature zoo on these weekends. 24-hour live and video security monitors the reptiles' cages, crates and exhibits. The hall temperature is adjusted for the ultimate comfort of the featured creatures. Animal Planet and Discovery Channel personalities are made comfortable in the adjoining [Holiday Inn Hotel](#). But, affirmed Fitzgerald, the Center's world-class menu stays the same. "Only the reptiles get crickets."

Fitzgerald says security and safety is so effective there have been virtually no escapes, save a baby turtle found within minutes of being identified as MIA.

After the show? Center staff is proficient in the intense cleaning and sanitizing required. "The carpet is cleaned, everything is scrubbed up and wiped down. The bride at a wedding that night would never know her elegant, sparkling reception room was recently a menagerie with thousands of visitors."

The Convention Center's NARBC is one of the largest live animal shows in the nation, but for the Center staff, handling the show is a walk in the park.



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May 29, 2012

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## **Tinley Park Convention Center Located In Lively, Interesting Destination**

Tinley Park, IL – Being minutes away from Chicago means [Tinley Park Convention Center](#) visitors can easily access world-renowned entertainment, cultural activities and the lakefront.

However, convention-goers can experience a wide variety of diversions without ever leaving the village. Besides the elegance of the Center itself and the conjoined hotel's health and fitness center including indoor pool, sauna and whirlpool, Tinley Park is a vital, interesting destination with something for everyone.

Just steps away, golfers will find [Odyssey Country Club](#), rivaling any private golf club. The 18-hole course, ranked as one of Chicagoland's Top 15 public courses, was designed by two-time U.S. Open winner Curtis Strange. Curtis' talents provide a breathtaking course design, full of imagination and challenge.

[Odyssey Fun World](#) will satisfy gaming and extreme sports enthusiasts. A new zipline has been added to a line-up of go-carts, bumper cars, speed boats, bumper boats, laser tag and more. Quieter folk can enjoy miniature golf and arcade games and kids can jump into the Exploration Adventure, Adventure Park and more.

Shoppers will find whatever they are looking for – and a place to rest afterwards. Shops in the village's downtown include unique locations such as Freddie Bear Sports, Wyman Frame & Art Gallery and Sona Bella Salon & Spa. National brands such as Kohl's, HomeGoods, Dick's Sporting Goods and SuperTarget are found at Brookside Marketplace. Tinley Park Plaza boasts choices such as T.J. Maxx, Famous Footware, Hobby Lobby, Burlington Coat Factory and Menards.

For those looking for art and culture, Tinley Park will delight. The village's annual Benches On The Avenue exhibition features an eclectic collection of benches, created by local artists and community groups. The Oak Park Avenue Train Station is one of the American Institute of Architects' "150 Great Places of Illinois." Coordinate a visit around opening night of a Vogt Visual Arts Center exhibit or an Arts Alive! Band performance. The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra calls neighboring Frankfort home, with Conductor Laureate Maestro Carmon DeLeone drawing audiences from all Chicagoland to hear professional, orchestral music.

Hungry, thirsty or looking to satisfy a sweet tooth? Tinley Park has over [80 restaurants, pubs, bakeries and coffeehouses](#).

Just minutes southwest of world-class Chicago, Tinley Park offers unique attractions and entertainments.



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Contact: Daniel Fitzgerald, 708-342-5485, [d.fitzgerald@tphicc.com](mailto:d.fitzgerald@tphicc.com)

## Illinois Republican Convention 2012 Finds Clear Choice in Tinley Park Convention Center

Tinley Park, IL – In 2004 and 2008, Illinois Republicans held their Conventions downstate. For the [2012 Illinois Republican State Convention](#) on June 8-9, the thinking was to change locations and find a suitable Chicagoland meeting facility. The wish list included a state-of-the-art facility, an easily accessible location, sufficient nearby hotel rooms and a cooperative staff.

“We looked at Chicago locations and at other suburban locations but the Tinley Park Convention Center just stood out,” said Jonathan Blessing, Executive Director of the [Illinois Republican Party](#). “It is brand-spanking new with everything we wanted.”

“The facility is beautiful,” commented Blessing. With the Center’s recent expansion and renovation, a commodious concourse bathed in natural light was added, along with elegant stone architectural accents and a variety of dramatic water features. The décor and ambiance are well-suited to the type of atmosphere needed for the GOP Convention.

Key to this site’s selection was geography. The Party rejected facilities in Chicago and the Northwest suburbs as they did not want downstate delegates to be forced to drive another hour or more. “The [Tinley Park Convention Center’s](#) location is just perfect for us. It’s right off I-80 and every other major expressway connects to I-80.” Delegates will find the drive very straightforward and the Center effortless to arrive at after exiting I-80. And a bonus – there are 1,500 free parking spots on the Center grounds.

With about 1,000 Convention participants, hotel space was a very significant concern as well. “There is a [hotel](#) attached to the Center,” said Blessing. “Most of our guests will stay right there, on the premises. There are no issues with housing for our delegates and their guests.” With 202 connected rooms, including 10 suites and 668 additional rooms on Tinley Park’s hotel campus, all overnight requirements are easily accommodated.

Blessing also praises the Convention Center staff. “Tinley Park Convention Center professionals have been tremendous; they rolled out the red carpet for us. They are very happy to have us there and have done everything they could for us. It’s a very good feeling working with them.”

For Blessing and the Illinois Republican Party, the Tinley Park Convention Center has fulfilled every item on that wish list.



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Contact: Daniel Fitzgerald, 708-342-5485, [d.fitzgerald@tphicc.com](mailto:d.fitzgerald@tphicc.com)

### **Tinley Park Convention Center Is Easy to Access, Free to Park**

Tinley Park, IL - When convention-goers visit a premier facility, they expect arduous traffic, tortuous routes and expensive parking. However, visitors to the [Tinley Park Convention Center](#) experience none of that.

Facility parking fees, as high as \$50 a day, are non-existent here. The Center boasts 1,500 free parking spaces in a well-lit, easily accessible lot, rare in high-end facilities.

“When planners mention ‘free parking’ on meeting and conference materials, it always generates good feelings about the event,” said Daniel Fitzgerald, Director of Sales at the Center. “It’s one less expense for visitors and one more benefit to hosting an event in Tinley Park.”

Getting to the Convention Center is also a cinch. It is located at the intersection of east-west-running Interstate 80 and Harlem Avenue, a major thoroughfare that bisects and connects all Chicagoland along its north-to-south route.

“We – and our visitors – are so fortunate that we are just off of I-80,” said Daniel Fitzgerald, Director of Sales. “All of the major expressways feed into I-80. We are just over 3 miles from the interchange with I-57, about 6 miles from the I-355 interchange, about 7 miles from the I-294 interchange and about 20 miles from I-55. It’s a logistic dream come true and makes traveling here very simple.”

Many participants in the upcoming [Illinois Republican State Convention](#) will be traveling from central and downstate Illinois. “Whichever expressway travelers choose, they have a straight shot here. Directions are easy to give and easy to follow.”

Travelers by train have it easy too. [The Metra Rock Island](#) trains travel between the LaSalle Street Station in Chicago’s Loop and Joliet’s Union Station, stopping at Tinley Park two train stations, the Oak Park Avenue station, selected by the American Institute of Architects as one of the 150 Great Places in Illinois, and the 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue train station, also an architectural gem. With a pre-arranged free shuttle to and from the Convention Center itself, that form of transportation is less than \$11.

“Our goal is to bring people to our beautiful facility,” said Fitzgerald. “With the ease of road travel, the convenience of train travel and our free parking, it’s very easy to get here.”



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