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A free monthly magazine  
july 2021

# Neighbors<sup>tm</sup>



**PREPARING FOR ANOTHER  
MOBILE PROCESSION**

**INSIDE: 128th Feast schedule • Branda tradition marks 100 years**



**MELROSE PARK**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**JOB  
FAIR  
JULY 9**

Looking for work? Plan to attend the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development Job Fair set for Friday, July 9, 10am to 1 pm, at Jane Addams School, 910 Division in Melrose Park. At least 25 companies will be on-hand seeking to fill full-time and part-time positions. Some may offer on-site interviews. Bring resumes and don't miss this great opportunity!



AMAZING  
Neighbors

**“Putting art on our properties is a team effort, something we truly hope the community will appreciate and enjoy.”**

Edie Trott, Senior Director of Marketing, NewMark Merrill Companies



**“We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.”**

-Maya Angelou

## Enjoy Winston Plaza

### 3 MURALS WITH A MISSION TO INSPIRE

When Edie Trott visited NewMark Merrill's Winston Plaza property in April 2020, her vision was to bring local artists Shayne Taylor (pictured), Brett Whitacre and Felix Maldonado to Melrose Park to create larger-than-life murals that would invite the community to come out and find their own meaning on the walls of Winston Plaza, 9th and North Avenue, Melrose Park. Vision accomplished. ✓

## A Plaza

## With Purpose

Despite the fact that the state is now operating under the Phase 5: Illinois Restored banner, with all sectors of the economy reopened and businesses, schools, and recreation resuming normal operations with new safety guidance and procedures, some people may not be ready to venture out into crowds and congestion. In fact, they might actually be seeking some time to restore the momentum they lost and perhaps a local place where they can gather their thoughts and ready themselves for re-entry into the “new normal.”

Most area residents wouldn't imagine that a company that owns more than 80 shopping centers in 100+ cities throughout California, Colorado and Illinois would be the catalyst for creativity and calm, inspiration and imagination but NewMark Merrill Companies, Inc., owners of Winston Plaza at 9th and North Avenue in Melrose Park, have made it a priority to bring larger-than-life murals to its properties, hoping to establish places to “gather and uplift” within the communities it serves.

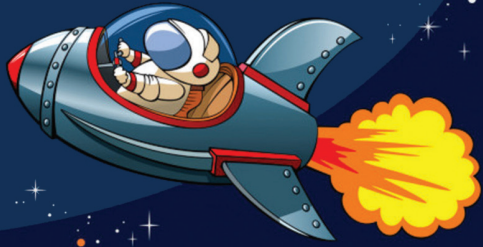
When Chairman and CEO Sandy Sigal made the community art program a priority, Edie Trott, Senior Director of Marketing, took it to the next level, traveling extensively to their shopping centers, identifying the most viable areas and walls for murals and working with consultants to search out incredibly-talented local artists to conceive and create massive messages of post-pandemic hope and visual excitement.

*story continues on page 14*

follow Winston Plaza on Facebook and [www.winston-plaza.com](http://www.winston-plaza.com) • read more at [www.newmarkmerrill.com/community-art/](http://www.newmarkmerrill.com/community-art/)

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## A Plaza With Purpose

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"My own personal mantra has been to realize change through challenge," reflected Trott. "Having launched the community art program before the pandemic, we could have never imagined the tremendous challenges all of us would face in the months ahead. Now, as we are able to forge on and complete this project, we are even more hopeful that the murals will resonate in some way with everyone in the community, that we have sparked imagination beyond all barriers—economic, social, emotional, any kind of barrier. The mission here is very simple: to enhance our common areas, make them an inviting place where community residents will want to sit, relax and make it part of their day, bringing some post-pandemic peace as well as motivation to move on."

For Tim Murphy, Senior Director of Marketing and Technology for NewMark Merrill, the community art project was simply meant to be. "For all of us within the company, this was a unique but logical step within our three-fold purpose: to always strive to improve our properties, support our tenants and appreciate our customers. I truly believe that these murals may even trigger an incredible moment in someone's life, prompting unexpected feelings and even inspiration."

The stories of the artists are as inspiring as the murals themselves: Shayne Taylor, who painted the "Beauty of Change" (Maya Angelou quote wall) believes that her art is the best way to communicate and share her vision and that bigger-than-life art brings color and happiness to everyone. "I've learned from art that you're going to make mistakes and it's okay." Brett Whitacre, a former drummer, considers himself "lucky" to make a living doing what he loves. No one would guess that he is color-blind; his mural at the Best Buy store is a masterpiece of shades and juxtapositions. Felix Maldonado is self-taught street and graffiti artist who, over the last 25 years, rarely uses a paintbrush when he works. Much more confident with spray paint, Felix's works amaze clients and command attention from people across the country. A graduate of the American Academy of Art in Chicago, he brings relentless passion and enthusiasm to every project he undertakes.

*Pictured above, the mural painted by Brett Whitacre at Winston Plaza in Melrose Park.*