



National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. It is celebrated from September 15 to October 15 annually. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

The theme of the 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month is "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation." The National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers states that this theme emphasizes "the need to ensure diverse voices and perspectives are welcomed in decision-making processes, thereby helping to build stronger communities and a stronger Nation."

There are many examples of how individuals of Hispanic descent have shaped our nation. Individuals such as Mario Molina and Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa are just two of many examples of contributions made by members of the Hispanic community.

Mario Molina is a Mexican scientist and chemist. In 1995, he won a Nobel Prize for his research on how man-made compounds affect the ozone layer. When he was young, he became interested in science and even developed a chemistry lab in his bathroom. In 1968, he moved to the United States and earned an advanced degree in physical chemistry from UC Berkeley. He then taught at MIT and UC San Diego. Mario Molina received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama in 2013. His contributions changed how the world thinks about the environment and how important it is for us to protect the ozone layer.

Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa is a world-renowned researcher and neurosurgeon who runs the research lab at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. Quiñones-Hinojosa and his team have published more than 150 scientific studies on the development of brain cancer. He also leads the National Institute of Health initiative to find a cure for brain cancer.

Contributions from Molina and Quiñones-Hinojosa embody the importance of ensuring that diverse voices are heard and recognized. It is also a shining example of how the Hispanic community has contributed to the American culture.

The Hispanic Culture has influenced American Culture through food, music, sports (soccer and baseball)- a third of Major League Baseball players are Latino. A recent Hispanic influence on Broadway can be found in the Tony Award winning show "Hamilton" which Lin-Manuel Miranda wrote and starred in. These are examples of how the Hispanic culture has contributed and influenced American culture.

As we close out National Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to recognize all Hispanic residents for their culture and traditions that continue to enhance and enrich our community and the Nation. It is the blend of cultural influences that will help build a stronger community and a healthier Nation.

Mayor Johnson

Village Hall

118 West Cook Avenue Libertyville, Illinois 60048 (847) 362-2430 (847)362-9453 fax
www.libertyville.com