



## Employers Seek Graduates with Good Oral Skills



By Dr. R. Pletsch

Many Millennials are known for getting in the faces of people and shouting down anyone they assume that will not agree with them politically. Yet, despite this, Catherine Gewertz, the Associate Editor for Education Week, recently filed an article that employers are having a distinct problem finding new hires with good oral communication skills.

Over 80% of executives and hiring managers that were surveyed stated that good verbal skills were hard to find. Fewer than 50% of recent college grads were prepared for this aspect of the workforce. The president of The Association of American Colleges and Universities, Lynn Pasquerella, states they do not have much practice. The Common Core State Standards calls for Speaking and Listening Skills mastered by the 11th grade. They believe the job is not being completed. It appears that book reports and power points, while often used, are not effective for teach-

ing oral skills needed on the job. Relatively few schools emphasize the skills that employers are looking for.

Some employers are making an effort and teaching their own employees the skills they hope they will learn. They must listen more and actually answer the questions posed and be prepared to support their reply. They should not use slang or initials or emojis. The University of Pittsburgh has designed a program that has been adopted by The Nashville School District and they are satisfied with the students' abilities to speak to a variety of academics and clearly communicate their ideas. DTE Energy hires about 90 interns every summer. They have these students work hard on their oral skills with the hope that some could be employed by them at a future date. This shows a great concern that some of big business has in having their employees prepared to communicate.

Many of us see this all the time. When no one talks. I have been at Principals meetings with guest speakers paid for by the Board and see that very few under 40 are giving the speaker the courtesy they deserve. Many have their cells out. We see it at many places. Several Senior groups I visited stated that when their young people come to visit, they might as well have stayed at home. If they say anything, the most common is "Hi, can I charge my phone?"

An interesting point: no electronic devices are allowed in some of the school districts in Northern California that the children of the Google employees work. This is at the parents' suggestions. Makes you think.



Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore drive is offering 25 Illinois Resident Free Days on Thursday to Monday, Jan. 17th - 21st and all Mondays through Fridays, Feb. 1st - 28th. With a valid ID, Illinois residents receive free general admission, which includes the chance to see Pacific white sided dolphins in an aquatic presentation (subject to availability), the intricate patterns of the angelfish in the special exhibit *Underwater Beauty*, get on a first-name basis with belugas, sharks or penguins during daily animal chats, and more. Admission can be upgraded to include 4-D Experience for \$4.95 per guest. For more information, visit [shedd-aquarium.org](http://shedd-aquarium.org) or call (312) 939-2438.

## Committee To Reform Congress

Congressman Dan Lipinski (D-IL) and Darin LaHood (R-IL) voted in favor of Title II of the 116th Congress Rules Package, which includes pieces of legislation they previously sponsored to create a committee charged with investigating ways to reform Congress so that it works more efficiently. The House approved creating the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress on a vote of 418-12.

Rep. Lipinski, a former American Government professor, said the way Congress operates today is nowhere near what our framers envisioned.

"When I taught American Government, I was always pointing out that the Constitution established Congress in Article I, before the executive and judicial branches, because the drafters understood the critical importance of Congress leading in our representative democracy," said



CONGRESSMAN LIPINSKI

Lipinski. "Congressional dysfunction increasingly turns more power over to the president and to the courts, which takes power away from the people. Congress needs reform so it can function as it was intended."

## Launch Award For Civic Engagement

The Obama Foundation and Chicago Public Schools announced a new initiative to honor students, schools, educators, and community partners who have made an impact through civic engagement and action.

Four categories for recognition will include students who lead impactful projects in their communities, schools that foster civic learning and empower student voice, educators who go above and beyond to support the next generation of young leaders, and community organizations. The Foundation and CPS will select two recipients for each category who will receive a foundation-sponsored grant to support civic projects.

Student award will recognize students who have addressed an important issue in their classroom, school, or community. Students

will have conducted research and engaged community members in understanding the problem and crafting solutions.

School award will recognize commitment to building opportunities for students to have meaningful civic learning. These schools value students in their decision-making and policy development.

Educator award will honor those who model civic leadership by creatively providing opportunities for young people to engage in their community.

Community organization award will recognize collaborative partnerships between schools and community organizations to empower student voice and civic engagement.

Applications, criteria, and information on eligibility will be available at [www.obama.org](http://www.obama.org).

## Annual Renewal of Senior Exemptions

Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi announced that his office has mailed Senior and Senior Freeze Exemption renewal applications for tax year 2018. The application deadline is Feb. 6th and annual renewal is required.

The Senior Exemption application is part of a booklet which also contains the separate, income-based Senior Freeze Exemption application.

To qualify for the Senior Citizen Exemption for tax year 2018, a taxpayer must have: been born prior to or in the year 1953; owned the property during 2018 or have a lease or contract for 2018 which makes them responsible for the real estate taxes; used the property as their principal place of residence in 2018.

Last year, a new law increased savings for the Senior Exemption from \$5,000 to \$8,000 in Equalized Assessed Value.

The exemption amount is not the dollar amount by which a tax bill is lowered. EAV is the partial value of a property to which tax rates are applied; it is this figure on which a tax bill is calculated.

The savings for a Senior Citizen Exemption is calculated by multiplying the exemption savings of 8,000 by the local

tax rate. The Assessor does not set tax rates.

To qualify for the Senior Freeze Exemption for tax year 2018, a taxpayer must have: been born prior to or in the year 1953; a total household income of \$65,000 or less for (income) tax year 2017; owned the property or had a legal, equitable or leasehold interest in the property on Jan. 1st, 2017 and Jan. 1st, 2018; used the property as their principal place of residence as of Jan. 1st, 2017 and Jan. 1st, 2018; been liable for payment of 2017 and 2018 property taxes.

Last year, the law expanded eligibility for the Senior Freeze Exemption by increasing allowable total household income to \$65,000, from the previous limit of \$55,000. There is also a new minimum \$2,000 EAV deduction for the Senior Freeze, which will help offset increases in assessed value and help ensure that more seniors benefit from the Senior Exemption.

Eligible seniors who have never applied for the Senior and/or Senior Freeze Exemptions in the past may visit the Assessor's website at [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com) and download an application or contact (312) 443-7550 or request a form be mailed to them.

## Eagle Project For PAWS Chicago



K. SENDECKI

Krzysztof Sendecki, a Life Scout from St. Jane de Chantal's Boy Scout Troop 671, is working on a project to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout. He plans to collect and donate pet food and supplies for Paws Chicago to help them in their mission of save animals.

Donations of pet food and related supplies will be collected at St. Jane de Chantal Church, 5251 S.

McVicker, on Saturdays and Sundays after masses through Jan. 13th.

Donations can also be dropped off at 4726 S. Laramie or contact for pick up at (309) 750-4982 or email [sendecki.krzysztof19@gmail.com](mailto:sendecki.krzysztof19@gmail.com).

## Community Social At M-P Library

Neighbors for Environmental Justice will sponsor a Winter Community Social at the McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th on Saturday, Jan. 12th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome, children's art activities, cookies and lemonade will be provided.

Participants learn about the initiatives taken this past year and topics such as air monitoring, the history of McKinley Park, and other environmental issues like lead in drinking water. For more information, visit [www.n4ej.org](http://www.n4ej.org).

## Bird Walk At Nature Museum

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon drive will conduct a free Morning Bird Walk on Wednesday, Jan. 16th from 7 to 9 a.m.

Geoffrey Williamson of the Chicago Ornithological Society will explore the spectacular bird life around North Pond. After your exploration, come inside the Museum for coffee and discuss what birds were spotted. Dress appropriately.

reserved seats with complimentary exchange privileges, as well as Choose Your Own four, eight or 12 concert series packages. Memberships begin at \$99.

For more information, visit [gpmf.org](http://gpmf.org) or call (312) 742-7647.

## B-K Baseball Registers Players

Brighton-Kelly Baseball and girls softball will accept registration of players ages 7-14 at the Kelly Park Fieldhouse, 2725 W. 41st st., Jan. 12th through March 16th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call coach Leo at (312) 465-3805.

## Fundraiser For B-K Baseball

Brighton-Kelly Baseball League will sponsor a fundraiser at Don Raka Restaurant on Friday, Jan. 18th at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 and available by calling Leo at (312) 465-3805.

## Music Festival In Grant Park

Chicago's Grant Park Music Festival announced a rich array of programming for its 85th anniversary season in 2019. Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Carlos Kalmar will lead the Grant Park Orchestra, along with Chorus Director Christopher Bell and the Grant Park Chorus, in a ten-week season taking place from June 12th to Aug. 17th at Millennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion and other venues throughout the city.

All concerts are free and most will take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

Memberships are now available and include reserved access for every Festival concert, along with exclusive benefits like access to concert receptions, and parking and dining discounts. The Festival also offers packages with nine and 13 concerts that include

## Contest On Awareness For Radon Gas

Governor Bruce Rauner has proclaimed January "Radon Awareness Month" on increase awareness about the presence of Radon gas, naturally occurring radioactive gas that is recognized as the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and American Lung Association in Illinois are joining forces to increase public awareness of radon risks and ways to reduce exposure.

The Illinois Radon Poster Contest is open to students ages 9 to 14. Entries are due by March 1st. Prizes include \$200 for first prize, \$150 for second prize and \$100 for third prize. For more information, visit <https://www.lung.org/local-content/illinois/documents/2019-illinois-radon-poster.pdf>.

High school students can also compete for prizes by creating a 30-second YouTube video about radon by March 8th. Videos can be created by an individual, group or classroom. Student prizes include \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place, \$500 for third place and \$250 for seven honorable mention.

The top 10 videos will also be entered into a 'most views' contest to develop students' marketing and outreach skills. Winners will be provided a link to share with their friends. The video with the most views will receive an additional \$300. Additionally, the schools of the top three winners will receive \$300,

\$200 and \$100 for first, second, and third places.

Details are available on the American Lung Association in Illinois website at <http://www.lung.org/local-content/illinois/documents/2019-illinois-radon-video-official-rules.pdf>.

The top posters and videos can be viewed on IEMA's radon website at [www.radon.illinois.gov](http://www.radon.illinois.gov). The website also includes information about radon and lists of licensed measurement and mitigation professionals. Information is also available at (800) 325-1245.

## Auditions For Youth Mariachi

Mariachi Herencia de Mexico will be holding auditions for new students ages 11 to 18 at the Back of the Yards College Preparatory High School, 2111 W. 47th st. on Saturday, Jan. 12th at 9 a.m.

Students with previous music experience in trumpet, violin, vihuela, guitar, guitarron, harp or voice are encouraged to audition.

Free classes take place twice a week. Admitted students will be placed in an intermediate or advanced ensemble.

The Latin Grammy-nominated youth ensemble has released two successful albums and has toured throughout the U.S. and Mexico.

For registration information, visit [www.mariachiherencia.com/auditions](http://www.mariachiherencia.com/auditions).

## Coffee Chat With State Representative

State Representative Theresa Mah will conduct a Coffee with the Legislator session at the Pilsen Community Academy, 1420 W. 17th st. on Thursday, Jan. 17th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Thoughts on state and local issues will be shared. For more information, call (872) 281-5775.



REP. MAH

## CPS Expands AP Program

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CPS Leadership announce the expansion of the Advanced Placement Capstone program - an intensive diploma program that challenges students to excel in a variety of college-level courses - to six additional high schools through the city.

Last school year, more CPS students than any other district in the county met the rigorous requirements and earned an AP Capstone Diploma.

Newly released data for the 2017-18 school year shows that the percent of CPS students passing an AP exam has reached and exceeded 50 percent of the first time - which means more students are eligible for college credit while still in high school, making college more affordable while preparing students to succeed in rigorous postsecondary courses.

## 2019 Property Tax Bills Now Online

In response to a high volume of requests by taxpayers, accountants and tax advisors, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas has posted next year's First Installment property tax bill to [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com), nearly three months before the due date.

Property owners should consult with a tax professional about income tax deductions for 2018.

Tax Year 2018 First Installment taxes, due March 1, 2019, are 55 percent of the prior year's total tax.

You may look up your tax bill on [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) by using your address or 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN). Here's how to pay: Go to [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) and select "Make an Online Payment"; download and print your bill from the website and either: mail it to the treasurer's Office, or pay in person at a Chase bank branch or the Treasurer's Office.

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BrightonParkLIFE.com  
To complement our weekly edition The Brighton Park-McKinley Park Life has launched a website. On it can be found general information about us, recent and past issues, advertising information and a calendar of free local events. We encourage our readers to check back often for new updates!

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### Obituaries



Kaczmarczyk and late Ludwika Konopka. Funeral services were held Jan. 4th from Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Willow Springs to St. Bruno Church. Interment was in Mietustwie, Poland.

#### Lipinski Plans Open Meeting

With the 116th Congress now in session, Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) is inviting residents to a Town Hall Meeting at the Performing Arts Center of Oak Lawn High School, 9400 Southwest Highway on Saturday, Jan. 12th at 8:30 a.m.

Rep. Lipinski is a member of the new Democratic House majority and will focus his efforts in the new session on middle-class job creation, improving local roads and public transit, making health care more affordable, protecting the environment, defending retirement security, and improving educational opportunities.

Staff will be available at 8 a.m. to provide assistance with Medicare, Social Security, veterans' benefits, and other federal matters.

For more information, call (773) 948-6223.

**W L A D Y S L A W KACZMARCZYK**, of Archer Heights passed away on Dec. 30th at the age of 86. He was the husband of Aniela (nee Mietus); father of Anna (Stanley) Leja, Maria (Jozef) Mulica and Jan (Zofia) Kaczmarczyk; grandfather of Mark (Tara) Leja, Dorothy (Justin) Coop, Robert (Jill) Leja, Barbara (Jorge) Verdin, Marek (Agata) Mulica, Angie Kaczmarczyk, Slawek Mulica, Dorothy (Mateusz) Guzy and Mateusz Mulica; great grandfather of 9; brother of Anna (Tadeusz) Mietus, Jan (Zofia) Kaczmarczyk, Michalina (late Franciszek) Takuski, Maria (Jan) Molek, Jozef (Anna)

### Tree Recycling At Area Parks



The Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation and Chicago Park District announced that the 30th annual holiday tree recycling program operates Saturdays, Jan. 12th and 19th.

#### MPCA Schedules Annual Banquet

The McKinley Park Civic Association will sponsor its 48th Annual Banquet at Polonia Banquets, 4604 S. Archer on Sunday, March 3rd at 12 noon.

Educator of the Year awards will be presented to Josefina Garcia of Blessed Sacrament Religious Education Program; Nicholas Colletti of De La Salle Institute; Elizabeth Loerop of Evergreen Academy Middle School; Shelley Cordova of Greene School; Nadine Filas of Kelly High School and Betty Gorman of Namaste Charter School. Jose Negrete will be honored with the William H. G. Toms Community Service Award.

The public is invited, tickets are \$25 for adults and \$16 for children ages 3 to 11. For reservations, call Sue Pletsch at (773) 847-0261.

Live holiday trees can be dropped off inside tree corrals at: Marquette Park, 6700 S. Kedzie; McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd.; and Wentworth Park, 5701 S. Narragansett.

Ornaments, lights, and tinsel must be removed and trees should not be in a bag. They will be turned into mulch and wood chips for use at Chicago Park Districts and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

For more information, visit [www.recyclebycity.com/chicago](http://www.recyclebycity.com/chicago).

#### CPD Deploys New Officers

Chicago Police Department Superintendent Eddie Johnson, announced the first deployments of 2019, with 99 new police officers assigned to neighborhoods including McKinley Park and Brighton Park.

The deployment announcement follows a second consecutive year, of citywide reductions in overall crime, with fewer murders, shootings, robberies, burglaries and vehicle thefts throughout 2018 than in 2017.

### Conservation Story At Nature Museum

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon drive will present a free program for adults titled, "Columbia: Coffee, Birds and Community Conservation" on Thursday, Jan. 31st from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Amanda Rodewald's research interests revolve around ecology and habitat management in human-dominated landscapes both here and in the tropics. Through a media-rich presentation, visit with species such as mourning and cerulean warblers and summer tanagers on a Colombian coffee plantation.

Learn how your consumer choice of shade-grown coffee benefits not only neotropical migrants wintering in Central and South America, but also the communities that provide this habitat.

Interweaving biological and economic research findings with stories

about people and birds, this researcher will illustrate how tropical forest management can support sustainable communities and habitats. Coffee samples will be available.

For more information, call (773) 755-5100 or visit [naturemuseum.org](http://naturemuseum.org).

#### History Project Invites Veterans

Congressman Dan Lipinski is inviting veterans in the Third District to share their stories so they can be preserved in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. The VHP collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of veterans so that current and future generations can better understand the contributions and sacrifices they made.

Participants will receive a copy of the recorded interview and one will be sent to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

All recorded interviews will be available to researchers, scholars, students, authors, filmmakers, and anyone else visiting the library. For more information, call (773) 948-6223, or online to [lipinski.house.gov](http://lipinski.house.gov).

#### CWTA Forum On Mayor's Race

The Chicago Women Take Action Alliance will hold a Mayoral Candidate's Forum on Saturday, Feb. 2nd from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington st.

The forum will be preceded by the online posting of candidate's responses to a questionnaire based on an agenda and will be followed by the posting of results of a straw poll taken online at the event.

The event is free of charge but tickets are required at [ChicagoWomenTakeAction.com](http://ChicagoWomenTakeAction.com).

#### Programs At A-H Library

The Archer Heights Library, 5055 S. Archer has scheduled a variety of activities.

Film Discussion Club meets 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Come, meet movie enthusiasts, make new friends.

The Book Discussion Club meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Computer help is available Mondays and Wednesdays from 2-7 p.m.

Portrait Drawing, a pencil workshop for adults and teens, will be conducted Saturday, Jan. 19th at 2 p.m. Bring a photograph or use your imagination.

Donations of small canvases and acrylic paints will be appreciated.

For more information, call (312) 747-9241.

#### Winter Luau At O-L Ice Arena

The Oak Lawn Park District Ice Arena, 9320 S. Kenton will conduct a Winter Luau on Sunday, Jan. 20th from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Admission is \$7 and skate rental is \$3. Features are skating, raffles, DJ music and an appearance by Skate, the Chicago Wolves mascot.

For more information, call (708) 857-5173.

#### CAPS Beat 922 Plans Meeting

9th District Beat 922 will meet at Shields Middle School, 2611 W. 48th st. on Tuesday, Jan. 22nd at 6 p.m.

The area is bounded by 43rd st., 49th st., Kedzie ave. and Western ave.

Residents will meet with beat officers to discuss problems.

#### Advisory Council At McKinley Park

The McKinley Park Advisory Council will conduct its regular meeting at the Field House, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Monday, Jan. 14th at 7 p.m.

The Volunteer Party is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 26th from 12 to 2 p.m.

#### Game Day At McKinley Library

The McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th st., will conduct Games Day on Saturday, Jan. 12th from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Children under age 11 must be accompanied by an adult.

### Polar Adventure Days At Northerly Island



Northerly Island, 1521 S. Linn White Dr., will conduct its 14th annual Polar Adventure Days on Saturdays, Jan. 26th and Feb. 23rd from noon to 4 p.m.

Participants will tour the Natural Area, either on foot or in snowshoes depending on weather, and learn about Siberian huskies, wolves and birds of prey, work together to create a nature inspired winter craft, while sipping on a cup of hot cocoa.

The first 500 visitors will be treated to hot cocoa.

For more information, visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com).

#### Baseball Camp At Kelly High

Brighton Kelly Baseball is conducting a free training & conditioning camp every Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the 2nd floor gym of Kelly High School, 4136 S California. Early registration for the 2019 season will be accepted.

**Reg. \$202.00 Games**  
Thursday, January 10th, 2019

<b>B I N G O</b>				
4	16	31	50	6
8	19	38	58	7
11	26	35	56	8
14	29	34	59	9
10	30	37	60	176

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Continued from Page 3

**Real Estate For Sale**  
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION MIDFIRST BANK Plaintiff, vs. RAY YARBROUGH, ESSIE PORCH, ARLENE YARBROUGH, SHERIE YARBROUGH, COMPANION PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF BERNICE YARBROUGH, IF ANY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, RAY YARBROUGH, INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF BERNICE YARBROUGH Defendants 17 CH 01403 741 WEST VERMONT AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60628

**NOTICE OF SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 15, 2018, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on February 19, 2019, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6635 S. WASHINGTON AVE, Chicago, IL 60629

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**Real Estate For Sale**  
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF THE CWABS, INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-16 Plaintiff, vs. GLADYS GREEN A/K/A GLADYS ALINE WARE, TCF NATIONAL BANK Defendants 6200 SOUTH WOOD STREET CHICAGO, IL 60636

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**Dance Company Invites Dancers**



The Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago is accepting beginners and experienced dancers ages 6 to 12 on Tuesdays at Gate Park, 2411 W. 55th st. and Thursdays at Piotrowski Park, 4247 W. 31st st. both at 6 p.m. Experienced and eager self-learner teenagers and young adults are also welcomed Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Gate Park at 7 p.m. Contact Henry A. Roa at (773) 247-1522 or mexfolroa@ameritech.net.

**CPS Named To AP Honor Roll**

CEO Dr. Janice K. Jackson released the following statement on Chicago Public Schools being named to the AP District Honor Roll for the sixth consecutive year.

"CPS is leading the country not just by increasing the number of students taking exams and earning credit, but also by ensuring that more students of color are taking and earning credit year-over-year. Working together as a city, Chicago has created the country's first pre-K through 14 education continuum which is helping prepare the next generation of Chicagoans for a successful future by increasing access to quality education at every level."

Chicago Public Schools was one of 373 school districts across the U.S. and Canada that achieved the growth and access qualifications for placement on the College Board's annual AP District Honor Roll. Highlights include: The largest district to earn a spot on the AP Honor Roll in 2018; The only large urban school district to earn a spot on the AP Honor Roll for six consecutive years and the largest to ever earn a spot on the AP Honor Roll seven times.

Last year, was named the College Board Advanced Placement District of the Year. 46.6 percent of 2018 graduates earned early college and career credentials like advanced placement credit.

In order to qualify for the AP Honor Roll, districts must: increase access to AP by at least 4% in large districts; increase or maintain the percentage of exams take by black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2018 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2016 percentage.

**1099G Forms For U-I Benefits**

1099G forms were sent for people who received Unemployment Insurance benefits in 2018.

Those who opted to receive theirs electronically should have received an email last Friday. Plans are to mail out the paper forms by Jan. 25th, but the Internal Revenue Service has not announced when they will start accepting returns.

In 2018, IDES paid more than \$1.73 billion in Unemployment Insurance benefits to 346,882 individuals who lost work through no fault of their own. Both of those numbers are lower than 2017, when 372,214 people received \$1.9 billion.

Taxes flow into the UI Trust Fund and are distributed to displaced workers through IDES as their claims are processed. Taxes will be lower in 2019 for more than 92 percent of the state's employers with businesses scheduled to pay \$1.66 billion in UI taxes this year.

In 2012, Illinois businesses paid \$3.36 billion in UI taxes.

238,735 individuals chose to receive their 1099G form electronically (255,578 in 2017) and 108,147 who are scheduled to receive theirs by paper (116,636 in 2017).

**Property Tax Loans for Seniors**

With prescription prices and utility bills rising faster than Social Security payments, a tax-relief program can help senior citizens pay their property taxes according to Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas.

Seniors whose annual household income is \$55,000 or less can apply to the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program for loans to cover property tax payments.

The State of Illinois issues the loans, which do not have to be repaid until the property is sold or the homeowner dies. The interest rate is 6 percent and the maximum loan is \$5,000 per year. To qualify, homeowners must be at least 65 years old by June 1st of the year in which the application is made.

To apply, download the application from cookcountytreasurer.com and submit by March 1st.



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City of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel, Mayor  
Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners  
Michael P. Kelly, General Superintendent & CEO



For more information about your Chicago Park District, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312.742.7529 or 312.747.2001 (TTY)



**Nominations For Service Awards**

State Rep. Theresa Mah, is encouraging local residents and service organizations to submit nominations for the 2019 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. "Countless individuals take time out of their busy lives to help make life a little better for everyone in our community," Mah said. "I encourage local volunteers to apply for these awards and am truly thankful for their service."

Awards are offered for the following categories: Adult (19-54 years old); AmeriCorps Member; Business (a for-profit company); Senior (55 years old plus); Senior Corps Members (55 years old plus that are members of the national service programs Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Senior Companion Program (SCP); Youth (18 years old or younger).

**Snowtrekking At Notherly Island**

Notherly Island, 1521 S. Linn White Drive, will offer Snowtrekking on Saturdays, Jan. 12th to 19th, Feb. 2nd to 16th and March 2nd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. if there is at least three inches of snow on the ground.

Participants can explore the Island for winter birds, native animals, enjoy the view of Chicago's skyline, a snowball fight, build a snowman, and take a break from the cold weather inside the field house.

The cost is \$5 to check out a pair of snowshoes for two hours with a valid ID.

For more information and to verify if weather conditions are favorable, call (312) 745-2910.

Use The Want Ads  
(773) 523-3663  
Deadline Tuesday 12 p.m. noon