



## School Board Member - Could you do the job?



By Dr. R. Pletsch

One of the issues during this last Presidential campaign was who should be in charge of the education of our children. Over the years, this has been answered many different ways. Sometimes it has been quite contentious. You must think about it. Who do you think would fill the role best? Educators, Seniors or Professors? This is not an answer that is right or wrong. As a person who has been on several school boards, it is amazing how much your ideas change over the years.

I served in several positions on boards local and regional. But I noticed when I became a father and though I did not think it would happen, some of my ideas changed. It is natural to get tunnel vision and cen-

ter on your family. Are your children average, above average, below average or in need of special ed?

You begin noticing a larger myriad of problems you may never have considered before. Many parents now want school to open early and stay open late. The issue of money is always present. I have seen many reports that say money is better spent on reducing class size and helping out everybody than just for those who can stay before or after school for extra programs, which has not proven to raise test scores.

Present in the news this last election was the issue of transgender and the bathroom crisis. Where do you stand on arbitrary problems compared to one that is in person? Team sports -- how do you feel about that? It does not seem like an issue until your 4'10" girl has to compete against a 6'5" transgender girl. Then you have to be part of the answer.

The issue is also that on a school board, you must work within the law. You may represent your own feelings, but public policy is what you need to help develop. It will become apparent to the new CPS Board that they may not be what is considered fairly. I hope the pressure will let them "live with dignity".

## State Police Obtain Homicide Charges

After extensive investigations, Illinois State Police Zone 1 Violent Crime Unit East special agents obtained charges in all five Chicago area expressway shooting homicides that occurred in 2023.

"With intelligent investigations, technology, and good old-fashioned persistence, ISP special agents were able to not just clear 100% of Chicago area expressway shooting homicides in 2023, but obtain criminal charges in 100% of cases," said Illinois State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly.

ISP obtained first-degree murder charges in each of the five Chicago area expressway shooting homicides in 2023.

February 16, 2023 - Shooting on Interstate 55 northbound at Lock Street. The victim was deceased on scene. After investigation, a man in his 20's of Chicago, was charged on March 27th, 2023 with First-Degree Murder.

February 19, 2023 - Shooting on Interstate 57 northbound at 116th Street. Six people were shot, three died, including a two-year-old child. On August 19, 2024, a man in his 20's of

Chicago, was charged with three counts of First-Degree Murder and three counts of Attempted First-Degree Murder.

May 14, 2023 - Shooting on Interstate 57 northbound ramp at 147th Street. The victim was transported to the hospital, but later died. On June 12, 2023, a man in his 50's of Evergreen Park, was indicted for First-Degree Murder.

May 16, 2023 - Shooting on Interstate 290 eastbound, west of Laramie Avenue. One victim was pronounced deceased. After investigation, a man in his 20's of Chicago, was charged with one count of First-Degree Murder on June 15, 2023.

August 28, 2023 - Shooting on Interstate 94 northbound at 138th Street. One person was shot and transported to an area hospital, but later died. On February 24, 2024, a man in his 30's of Matteson, was charged with two counts of First-Degree Murder.

Chicago area expressway shootings are down 32% compared to this time last year, 51% compared to 2022, and 71% compared to 2021.

## "World of Cats" At Field Museum



A caracal hunts fowls, frozen in time in Cats: Predators to Pets © MNHN F.-G. Grandin, 2023

*Cats: Predators to Pets* at the Field Museum features the science of cats and dives into our relationships with cats around the world.

Throughout history, felines have interested people as beloved pets, powerful deities, and ferocious predators. *Cats: Predators to Pets* explores the world of cats, shedding light on the physiological nature and cultural significance of this family of mammals. Videos paired with open-air taxidermied specimens show leopards, wildcats, lions, and more in a new light.

This exhibition was created by the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris, France to explore the world's 38 species of wild cats. A pageant of mounted specimens is accompanied by films and touchable casts.

*Cats* will also feature the history of the relationships between cats and humans throughout the world, starting from the origins of the domestic cat in southwest Asia and northeast Africa, featuring Anthropological

and archaeological items.

The exhibition includes specimens and cultural items from the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle, the Field Museum, and specimens on loan from partnering museums. It will also feature original content and stories from Field Museum scientist Anderson Feijó, Assistant Curator of Mammals. His research has unveiled hidden diversity bringing new species to light, including the pampas cats.

The Field Museum will give cat lovers the chance to feature their cat in the exhibition.

Each month while *Cats* is open, cat owners can submit themed images of their cats. A panel of judges will narrow submissions to 10 finalists to appear on the exhibition wall, and a public vote will determine which three finalists will receive four All-Access Passes to visit the exhibition.

Find more information at <https://fieldmuseum.io/ThatsMyCat>

## Virtual Seminar On "Spiritual Criminals"

The Chicago History Museum will present a Virtual Urban History Seminar "Spiritual Criminals" on Thursday, Jan. 16th from 7 to 8:15 p.m.

The series will feature a scholarly presentation followed by lively discussion. Michelle Nickerson, Professor of History at Loyola University Chicago will present "Spiritual Criminals: How the Camden 28 Put the Vietnam War on Trial."

Nickerson shares the story of a passionate group of progressive priests, nuns, and devout Catholics who raided a draft board during the Vietnam War, challenging the nation's military-industrial complex.

The Zoom session will open at 6:45 p.m. with the



M. NICKERSON

program starting at 7 p.m. RSVP at [chicagohistory.org](http://chicagohistory.org).

This session is free of charge, a donation to the Museum would be appreciated.

## Shared Cost Sidewalk Program



The 2025 Shared Cost Sidewalk Program will open Jan 13th from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The cost per square foot charged to property owners is well below what a private contractor would charge. Senior citizens and persons with disabilities may qualify to receive a 50 percent discount.

The scope of the project is limited to sidewalk within the public right-of-way and may include the existing courtesy walk (which runs perpendicular from the main sidewalk to the curb), and existing landing steps (the small strip of concrete adjacent to the curb). Sidewalk on private property will only be included if needed for transition purposes.

Owners of corner properties will be charged for sidewalk on both the main (address) side and non-address side of the property. CDOT will continue to build ADA-compliant corner camps where applicable, with the City paying the entire cost.

Replacement of sidewalk is based on engineering considerations. Repairs are focused on damaged sidewalk and will not necessarily improve existing drainage conditions and puddling. In order to minimize the cost to property owners and increase the number of Shared Cost participants, only the portion of sidewalk in need of replacement as determined by CDOT is eligible.

The property owner does have the option to replace the entire sidewalk in front of the property. However, the entire cost to remove and replace the portion of

sidewalk determined by CDOT to be in good condition will be charged to the property owner. No senior or persons with disabilities discount will be applied to this work.

For the 2025 program, applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. The number of participants is based on availability of funds. Applications will only be accepted by calling 311, through the service request website <https://311.chicago.gov>, or through the free CH311 mobile apps on iOS Apple and Android.

Provide the property owner's complete name, a contact phone number, email address if available, and the property's address.

Once the budget amount is met, the program will close for the year. Applicants will be notified indicating whether they have been included into the 2025 Program.

## Flower Show At Lincoln Park

The Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton dr. will present "Champagne Toast" Winter Flower Show Wednesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Jan. 5th.

The display features poinsettia varieties such as 'Autumn Leaves', 'Jubilee Pink', 'Ice Crystal', and 'Maren', all of which capture the theme in unique shades of apricot, gold and pink. Fresh cut fir trees adorn the room and hanging baskets of dichondra float like chandeliers.

Free registration is required at [lincolnparkconservatory.org/conservatory-reservations/](http://lincolnparkconservatory.org/conservatory-reservations/) or call (773) 883-7275.

## Federal Grant For Smart Manufacturing

The Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity announced that the State has been awarded \$2 million in federal grant funding for the Smart Manufacturing Lighthouse Program. This funding will be provided by the U.S. Department of Energy, through the Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains' State Manufacturing Leadership Program.

IMEC and DCEO will work collaboratively with local community and labor groups to provide resources, outreach, technical assistance, financial assistance, or workforce and training support to small- and medium-sized manufacturers. The program will provide a range of services, including training, workforce development, technology showcases, and direct implementation, to drive smart manufacturing.

30 manufacturers will have the opportunity to demonstrate the applications of smart technology and showcase best practices for other manufacturers. The possibilities of high-performance computing will be explored in a pilot program in partnership with Argonne National Laboratory.

The program is expected to provide training to 200 individuals in smart technologies and provide them with new in-demand skills and pilot a smart manufacturing intern corp.

For more information, visit [www.imec.org](http://www.imec.org).

## Griffin MSI Extends 007 World Exhibit



Photo credit: Griffin Museum of Science and Industry

Due to popular demand, the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, 57th & DuSable Lake Shore Drive announces the extension of *007 Science: Inventing the World of James Bond* through Spring 2025.

This is the first official exhibition to focus on the science and technology behind the longest-running movie franchise. Since its debut on March 7th, 2024, attracted visitors to explore over 90 artifacts and 13 vehicles from the film series, including Bond's many iconic Aston Martins, Q Boat, jetpack suit and signature gadgets that ensured each mission was a success.

Joining the collection is the Citroën 2VC from *For Your Eyes Only* (1981), which was constructed with a platform

for a camera to get close-ups of Roger Moore and Carole Bouquet during an infamous car chase scene.

A new installation will highlight artifacts used by Lashana Lynch in *No Time to Die* (2021) including her tactical harness with cable gun and Omega Seamaster 300M watch. Also on display is the Paravane towed behind the villain's boat in *For Your Eyes Only* (1981).

The 007 Science gift shop will debut a new collection of merchandise, including Christmas ornaments and other items.

The exhibit explores the technology, engineering and innovation behind Bond's world and provides visitors with a greater understanding of the scientific breakthroughs that came about from these films.

For more information, visit [msichicago.org](http://msichicago.org).

## Resurfacing For Campbell Street

The blocks of S. Campbell Ave, from Pope John Paul II Dr. to 45th st., are being repaved by the Chicago Department of Transportation due to potholes and the overall poor condition of the street. Construction is underway and is scheduled to be completed within the next few weeks, weather permitting. Be mindful of orange 'No Parking' restrictions posted during construction. This project was funded through the 12th Ward 2024 Menu fund. For more information, contact (773) 475-6783.

## Free Concert At West Lawn Library

Chicago Artopia will present a free concert featuring Chris White and A Charlie Brown Christmas Jazz Trio at the West Lawn Branch Library, 4020 W. 63rd st. on Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 2 p.m. Tickets must be reserved at [www.chicagoartopia.org](http://www.chicagoartopia.org).

## Gads Hill Center Names New CEO

Gads Hill Center, announced the appointment of CEO Mariana Osoria, who brings more than 3 decades of experience working with marginalized communities.

She oversees programs in early childhood education, youth development, mental health services, and community wellness.

Mariana worked at the nonprofit Family Focus for 17 years in roles of increasing responsibility, including Center Director and Vice President of Centers. She served as Senior Vice President of Strategy, Policy and Equity from 2021 until joining the Johnson Administration in November 2023, as First Deputy for Human Services.

As a member of the Cook County Commission on Women's Issues, she serves as a Truth and Racial Healing Practitioner and a Latino Agenda member. For more information, visit [gadshillcenter.org](http://gadshillcenter.org).

## Park District Offers Winter Programs

The Chicago Park District offers an extensive array of low-cost programs for all ages, ability levels, and families this winter.

In-Person registration begins Saturday, Dec. 14th, or Monday, Dec. 16th for most parks. In-person registration is available if spots remain after online registration. Most programs run Jan. 6th to March 16th.

Programs at McPettridge Sports Center, Morgan Park Sports Center, Dr. Conrad Worrill Track & Field Center at Gately Park, and the ComEd Recreation Center at Addams Park follow a different schedule.

Aquatics Programs include Parent and Tot Swim; Tiny Tot Swim; Youth, Teen and Adult Learn to Swim; Swim Team; Water Polo; Aquatic Exercise and more.

Ages 6-17 get the first session of Youth Learn to Swim Programs free with coupon code FIRST-FREE.

Learn the Skills Needed to be a Lifeguard in Lifeguard Explorers. Open to Chicago residents aged 15-22. Participants will receive \$400 upon completion of the program.

Park Kids After-school Program is an excellent way for ages 6-12 to get out among friends and stay active after school thru a variety of brain play, nature, fitness, sports, and art activities, along with homework time. Financial assistance is available.

Gymnastics centers offer quality instruction for beginners to advanced competitors year-round.

## Kringle Market At St. Bruno

The St. Bruno Parish Center, 4839 S. Harding will conduct a Kris Kringle Market on Saturday, Dec. 14th from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Faith Formation Fundraiser will offer fun for the whole family with crafters, vendors, photos with Santa, food and entertainment.

with excellent training facilities and instructors.

Early Childhood (18 months-5 yrs. old). From Arts & ABCs, Ballet and Bitty Basketball, to Dino Diggers, Kiddie College, and Little Artists. For the younger ones, Parent/Guardian & Tot activities are available at many parks.

Youth (6-12 yrs. old) Classes include boxing; basketball; dance; woodcraft; cheerleading; a variety of fitness options and more.

Winter Break Camps are available at many parks over the holiday school break.

Teen programs include basketball and cultural offerings to fitness classes and clubs.

Adults/Seniors are offered a variety of classes from cultural activities to fitness, wellness and Pickleball.

Special Recreation programs are offered for individuals with disabilities. Participants will enjoy a variety of activities, from creating crafts, cooking, and fitness to visiting with friends.

Visit [chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com)

## Drone Shows At Navy Pier

Navy Pier will conduct the first of its dazzling holiday drone shows on Friday, Dec. 13th at 9 p.m. Kick off the season with the festivities of Light Up the Lake, enjoy delicious food, do some festive shopping, and then snuggle up on the south dock for a magical experience.

Award-winning winter festivals are featured every Saturday during December.

Step into the magic of Winterland, perfect for children aged 10 and younger. This 45-minute journey provides playful activities and picture-perfect opportunities.

Join the action on Northwestern Medicine Wellness Way Fitness Trail, where 1.5 miles of lakefront views, health and wellness trivia, and a path to better health await. Learn more from [www.nm.org](http://www.nm.org).

## Illumination At Morton Arboretum



Photo provided by Morton Arboretum

2024 Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle is open through Jan. 4th. Exciting features and immersive installations will delight all ages along a one-mile path that is

fully ADA compliant. The exhibition features 17 displays, including one new experience, enhancements to one returning feature and two features in new locations.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m.; last entry at 8:30 p.m. (last entry 7:30 p.m. on Electric Illumination nights); lights out at 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 20th - 21st the last entry at 9 p.m.; lights out at 10 p.m.

Electric Illumination: Late night, adults 18+ only, Fridays and Saturdays: Dec. 13th - 14th (Diva Anthems). Doors open at 8:30 p.m.; last entry at 9 p.m.; lights out at 10 p.m.

Event is closed Dec. 16th-17th, 24th (Christmas Eve), and 25th (Christmas Day).

For more information, visit [mortonarb.org/illumination](http://mortonarb.org/illumination).

## 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. Send neighborhood interest stories, student accomplishments, civic organization events to [brightonparklife@aol.com](mailto:brightonparklife@aol.com). Opinions expressed by guest editorials may not represent the viewpoints held by the publisher of the Brighton Park - McKinley Park Life Newspaper.

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## Ridge Library Plans Programs

The Garfield Ridge Branch, 6347 S. Archer, has scheduled interesting programs.

An Adult Book Discussion of "The Book Eaters" by Sunyi Dean is the topic for Dec. 12th at 6 p.m.

Morning Stories for ages up to 4 are recited on the first Saturdays of each month at 10:30 a.m. Featuring a simple story, new song and familiar nursery rhyme. Playtime follows.

Baby Time will share books, songs and play on Fridays, Dec. 13th to 20th and Jan. 3rd to 31st from 10 to 11 a.m.

The 4th Annual Senior Christmas Party will be enjoyed on Saturday, Dec. 14th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bud & Marge will sing Christmas carols. Refreshments and a special raffle are included, wear something festive.

Winter Bingo for Seniors will be played on Thursday, Dec. 12th from 2 to 4 p.m. The event features 10 games, prizes and light refreshments.

"Games People Play" will be offered for adults on Thursdays through Dec. 19th from 2 to 4 p.m. Bring your own games or use one of ours. Featuring chess, Scrabble, UNO, board games, Pinochle and Canasta.

Homeschool Family Meet-Up is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 20th from 1 to 2 p.m. Games and activities are available for ages 6 to 13 while caregivers can join in the fun or chat and share resources.

Saturday Game Day for adults and seniors on Saturdays through Dec. 28th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a game or play one of ours: UNO, Skipbo, Mexican Train, Canasta, Chess, Checkers, Sorry and more.

Story Time Reflections for ages 4 to 7 on Wednesdays, Dec. 18th from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. A fun-filled story time where young minds come together to enjoy exciting tales and share their thoughts.

Spanish Book Club on Thursdays, Dec. 12th and 19th from 2 to 4 p.m.

Homeschool Family Meet-Up with children ages 6 to 13 on Friday, Dec. 20th from 1 to 2 p.m. Games and activities are available for kids while caregivers can join in the fun or chat and share resources.

Teen Grinch themed diamond art keychain painting on Friday, Dec. 13th from 2:45 to 4 p.m. Limited seating, registration required.

Candy House Construction for ages 5 and up on Tuesday, Dec. 17th from 5 to 6 p.m. Registration required, opens Dec. 1st. Use frosting, graham crackers, gum drops and more.

Teen Gingerbread Houses on Thursday, Dec. 19th from 5 to 6:45 p.m. Registration required. Use graham crackers,

icing and various sweets. Play Mario Kart on the Nintendo Switch for ages 8 to 13 on Thursday, Dec. 26th from 1 to 2 p.m.

Lego Free Build for ages 5 to 10 on Saturday, Dec. 28th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Bring your imagination, we'll supply the Lego bricks.

Noon Year's Eve Party for toddlers is on Tuesday, Dec. 31st from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Have fun making party hats and noisemakers as we get ready for a countdown to 12 noon, with a balloon drop.

Family Holiday Photos and Hot Chocolate on Saturday, Dec. 21st from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wear your matching pajamas or ugly Christmas sweaters and snap fun family photos in front of our backdrop and tree. Take home one mini Polaroid picture per family, while supplies last.

January Toddler Programs are scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Topics are Jan. 13th - Block Party - duplos, wooden and foam blocks. Jan 20th - library is closed. Jan. 27th - Time for Tots. Programs on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. include: stories, rhymes, songs and a craft. Jan. 8th - Play Day, toys, puzzles and pretend play. Jan. 15th Play Doh - dress to get messy. Jan. 23rd, 1,2,3, paint - dress to get messy. Jan. 29th, Stories, songs and playtime.

Illustrious Illustrators for ages 6 to 13 Tuesdays, Jan. 14th to Feb. 25th at 4:30 p.m. Each week meet a different published illustrator and learn a new art skill. Afterward enjoy time creating art in their style. The schedule includes: Jan. 14th, Jess Hannigan; Jan. 21st, Sergio Ruzzier; Jan. 28th, Breanna Carzoo; Feb. 4th, TBA; Feb. 11th, X. Fang; Feb. 18th, Felicitia Sala and Feb. 25th, Jashar Awan. Online registration is required.

Register for events at [chippublib.org/events](http://chippublib.org/events).

## Lawyers Offer Phone Advice

The Chicago Bar Association is reminding the public that attorneys are available to provide legal assistance online or over the telephone.

The CBA sponsors a monthly "Call A Lawyer" program through the Lawyer Referral Service, making attorneys available to take calls from the public. On Saturday, Dec. 21st from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, the public may call (312) 554-2001 and explain their situation to an attorney.

These services can also be accessed on CBA's website at [www.chicagobar.org](http://www.chicagobar.org).

## Museum of Asian Art Schedules Programs



The Heritage Museum of Asian Art, 3500 S. Morgan st. will offer 3rd Friday Free Admission Museum Night is offered on Dec. 20th from 5 to 8 p.m. The event offers wine and appetizers in addition to an engaging tour led by a museum docent at 6 p.m.

Drop-in Sketching Day will be offered free on Saturday, Dec. 21st from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Immerse yourself in the captivating arts of Asia with a unique opportunity to sketch in the galleries. The extensive collection spans five millennia, providing a wealth of inspiration and discovery for artists of all

levels. All materials will be provided.

Find a one-of-a-kind holiday gift at our vintage shop, specially curated by the founder. Bronze Buddha statues, antique ceramics and decoratives, seal carvings, books, and handcrafted vintage Japanese Kokeshi dolls.

Thanks to a generous donor, every gift made through the end of 2024 will be matched, doubling the impact of your support.

Free Parking is available next to the museum. For more information, call (312) 842-8884 or visit [heritageasianart.org](http://heritageasianart.org).

## Park District Offers Outdoor Ice Skating

The Chicago Park District will continue the tradition of ice skating in neighborhoods at five outdoor sites. Programs and hours vary at each site. Visit each rink's official webpage to view hours, program schedules, accessibility information, rules, and more. The following outdoor ice rinks will open on Friday, Nov. 29th and close on Feb. 17th, weather permitting:

Midway Plaisance Park Ice Rink, 1130 Midway Plaisance North; Mt. Greenwood Ice Rink, 3721 W. 111th st.; Warren Park Ice Rink, 6601 N. Western ave.; Wentworth Park Ice Rink, 5625 S. Mobile ave.; Due to mechanical repairs, the McKinley Park Ice Rink opening will be delayed.

Each outdoor rink site is open Wednesday through Sunday on regular business days, except for Midway Plaisance Park Ice Rink, which is open seven days a week. Skaters are encouraged to check website for holiday hours. Skate trainers/walkers are available for children.

Toys for Tots donations of new toys are being accepted at all ice rink locations through Dec. 13th, during operating hours.

Skate with Santa takes place at McKinley Park on Saturday Dec. 14th from 1 to 3 p.m. and Mt. Greenwood Park on Sunday, Dec. 15th from 12 to 2 p.m.

The Cirque Experience Holiday Show will take place at the Warren Park Ice Rink, 6601 N. Western ave. on Dec. 21st at 5 p.m.

The show will feature spirited performances with acrobatics, gym wheels and circus arts.

In early January, the 108th Silver Skates Speed Skating competition will welcome skaters ages 6 and up to race their peers at one of 6 ice rinks. Midway Plaisance Park, 1130 Midway Plaisance North, Jan. 7th; McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd., Jan. 8th; Mt. Greenwood Park, 3721 W. 111th st., Jan. 9th; McPetridge Sports Center, 3843 N. California ave., Jan. 14th; Warren Park, 6601 N. Western ave., Jan. 15th and Wentworth Park, 5625 S. Mobile ave., Jan. 16th. All from 5 to 7 p.m.

The 108th Silver Skates Citywide Championship will take place at McPetridge Sports Center on Jan. 18th from 10: a.m. to 12 p.m. Finalists from each park will compete within their age group for first prize.

The skating ribbon at Maggie Daley Park will remain open through March 9th. For more information, visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/ice-rinks](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/ice-rinks).

## Productions At Lyric Opera

Lyric Opera's new season is an enchanting mix of new, contemporary works and familiar, classic productions. The season continues with Singin' in the Rain, Feb. 7th; The Puccini Heroines, Feb. 8th, 13th & 16th; Puccini's *La Boheme*, March 15th - April 12th; *Issy Mazzoli's The Listeners*, March 30th - April 11th and a Wondrous Sound, April 16th & 19th.

Performances in the 2024-25 season will take place at the Lyric Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive and will feature English translations projected above the stage. For information on performance dates and ticket availability, visit [lyricopera.org/newseason](http://lyricopera.org/newseason) (/shows/upcoming/2024-25).

To learn more about the 2024/25 season, visit [lyricopera.org/newseason](http://lyricopera.org/newseason) (/shows/upcoming/2024-25).

## Midway C of C Plans Dinner Dance

The Midway Chamber of Commerce will sponsor its Annual Dinner Dance at The Mayfield Banquet Hall, 6072 W. Archer on Friday, Dec. 13th at 6 p.m.

The Firefighter, Police Officer, Teacher and Community Member of the Year will be honored and the Board of Directors will be sworn in.

The cost of \$60 person includes family-style dinner, open bar, dancing, live Motown music, raffles and prizes.

For more information or to register, visit [midwaychamber.org](http://midwaychamber.org).

## Archer Heights Library Schedules Programs

The Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer has scheduled a wide range of informative programs.

### ALL AGES

Technology Help is available Drop-in (first come, first served when adult librarian is on duty) or by appointment. Get help with your devices, computer questions, using online library resources (eBooks, databases, job resources).

### CHILDREN

Family Story Time for children 0 to 5 and their caregivers feature stories, songs and fun on Thursdays through Dec. 19th at 11 a.m.

Let's Make: Holiday Ornaments for ages 8 to 12 is set for Tuesday, Dec. 17th at 4 p.m. Materials will be provided.

### TEENS

Do you need community services hours? Ask about our Teen Volunteer Program.

Work 'n Waffles for ages 10 to 19 is offered on Wednesday, Dec. 18th from 4 to 5 p.m. Visit our meeting room and make a waffle and have other snacks while you work. Bring headphones for quiet study time or work on a project with others. Teen laptops will be available for in-library use.

Craft Squad on Thursdays through Dec. 19th

from 4 to 5 p.m. features crafts and socializing. Materials and snacks will be provided. Bring headphones for quiet listening time.

Research Help with a Librarian high school students needed help with research for a school assignment can request an appointment with our Teen Librarian to review databases, printed sources and other resources. Call (312) 747-9241 to make an appointment.

### ADULTS

Polish Book Club meets 3rd Wed. of each month at 1 p.m. Schedule resumes Dec. 18th.

The English Book Club meets 4th Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. "The Stationery Shop" by Marian Kamali is the topic for Dec. 18th.

Identity Theft Scams and Tips is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 12th at 12 p.m. The Illinois Attorney General's Office will present tips to prevent identity theft and ways to restore your financial profile.

Wednesday Book Clubs are available at the circulation desk. No registration is required.

Beading time will meet on Saturday, Dec. 14th at 2 p.m. Create jewelry and ornaments with beads and wire. Bring your own material or use ours.

## Obituaries



IRMA RICO who was born on July 18th, 1974, passed away on Dec. 8th at the age of 50. Visitation will be held Sunday, Dec. 15th from 2 to 8 p.m. at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave., Jonathan Siedlecki, owner - director. Funeral Mass will be celebrated Monday, Dec. 16th, 10:30 a.m. at Good Shepard Church, 2735 S. Kolin ave. Interment will be at St. Mary's Cemetery, 87th & Hamlin.

LEOBARDA CRUZ who was born on January 18th, 1958, passed away on Nov. 27th at the age of 66. Visitation was held Dec. 5th and 6th at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave., Jonathan Siedlecki, owner-director. Interment was at Evergreen Cemetery.

GREGORIO SOTO who was born on March 12th, 1946 passed away on Nov. 29th at the age of 78. Visitation was held Dec. 6th at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave., Jonathan Siedlecki, owner-director

## Holiday Magic At Brookfield Zoo Chgo.



Photo credit CZS-Brookfield Zoo

Brookfield Zoo Chicago will conduct Holiday Magic on Dec. 12th-15th, 19th-22nd, 26th-31st from 3 to 9 p.m.

Discover giant illuminated animals, a tunnel show, visits with Santa, walk through displays, 900+ decorated trees lit up by community groups, Candy Cane Lane and Sparkling Coast.

Purchasing tickets in advance for North Gate entry is optional, and recommended. Advance ticket purchases are required for South Gate entry.

Meet Santa from through Dec. 22nd from 5-8 p.m. at Seven Seas underwater viewing area.

Four indoor habitats will be open during Holiday Magic: The Swamp, Living Coast, Great Bear Wilderness Underwater Viewing, and Seven Seas Underwater Viewing. Outdoor habitats will feature big cats, bison, camels, kangaroos and reindeer.

Full hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Hamill Family Play Zoo is now home to several American breeds of chickens, including partridge rock, barred rock, golden Wyandotte and sil-

ver laced Wyandotte.

Fall and winter free admission dates: Mondays and Tuesdays, through Dec. 24th; Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 3rd through Feb. 27th.

Dinner with Santa on Dec. 13th-15th at 3:30 or 5:30 p.m. Reservations must be made in advance at the Zoo's Discovery Center.

To purchase tickets visit [brookfieldzoo.org/Events](http://brookfieldzoo.org/Events).

For more information, visit [brookfieldzoo.org](http://brookfieldzoo.org).

## CSO Announces 2024/25 Season

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association announces 2024/25 Season programming for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Center Presents Dec. 12th to 14th, the CSO performs "The Tempest & The Sea Hawk"; Dec. 13th to 15th, Elf in Concert; Dec. 17th, Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass; Dec. 18th to 23rd, Merry Merry Chicago! and Dec. 19th to 21st, CSO performs Shani, Shostakovich & Brahms.

Visit [CSO.org](http://CSO.org) or call (312) 294-3000.

## New Exhibitions At History Museum



The Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark st. is featuring several new exhibitions.

In 1955, the murder of Emmett Till, a Black teenager from Chicago, and the subsequent criminal trial in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, attracted international attention and sparked the Civil Rights Movement. *Injustice: The Trial for the Murder of Emmett Till* begins with photographs of a joyful Emmett in life and of his funeral. The trial proceedings are then shared through courtroom sketches by Franklin McMahon.

Celebrating the 110th birthday of Italian fashion designer Emilio Pucci, marking more than 70 years of his designs since the start of his career in 1947. CHM costume collection intern Eloise Lyons writes about flight attendant uniforms Pucci designed for Braniff International Airways that are in the museum's Costume and Textiles Collection.

For more information, visit [chicagohistory.org](http://chicagohistory.org).

## Deadline For GoCPS Program

GoCPS applications for the 2025-26 school year will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15th.

Families can explore and apply to academic programs around the city, including magnet, career and technical education, selective enrollment and charter high schools. Families interested in elementary charter schools must apply to those schools directly.

Visit [GoCPS.edu](http://GoCPS.edu) for more information.

### St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish Welcomes You

Both Churches are Accessible & Air-Conditioned

<p><b>Masses at St. Barbara</b> Bridgeport — 2859 S. Throop Saturday, 5 PM, Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM 6 AM &amp; 9:30 AM Sunday Masses <b>Weekday Schedule (Chapel)</b> Tue., Thurs., &amp; Sat. 8 AM Mass</p>	<p><b>Masses at St. Therese</b> Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander Sunday Masses 8AM &amp; 10:30AM in English <b>Weekday Schedule</b> Mon., Wed., &amp; Fri. 8 AM Mass December 15, 2024</p>
--	--

St. Barbara: 312-842-7979 St. Therese: 312-842-6777 School 312-326-2837

**At St. Barbara, this Saturday, Dec. 14:**  
**2:30-4:30 PM, Outdoors Living Nativity**  
**5:00 PM, Simbangabi Mass**  
**followed by Reception at St. Barbara**

Join us for the

# The Living Nativity

at St. Barbara Church's Parking Lot

**Sat. Dec. 14, 2024**  
**2:30 PM - 4:30 PM**  
 2859 S. Throop St.  
 Chicago, IL 60608

Walk through outdoors "Little Bethlehem". Visit the stable, pet the barnyard animals, and shop the market.

Sing along to your favorite carols. Free pony rides for small children. Free hot cocoa, and cookies for all.

Free outdoor event. All are welcome!

EMISSIONS FAILURE SPECIALISTS \* GUARANTEED RESULTS

## GET READY FOR WINTER AND DRIVE CAREFREE!

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Certified In All Areas Of Repair!

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Sat. 6 a.m. - 12 noon

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For Rent

ARCHER / ASHLAND
5 1/2 rms, 3 bdrms, 1 bath, 2nd fl., coin laundry, close to transportation, \$1,340/month with 1 1/2 month security.

O'Brien Family Realty
6359 S. Central Ave.
(773) 581-7883
AGENT OWNED

Palos Hills Apartments

Avoid the congestion of the city, live in a park-like setting near forest preserves, transportation, shopping and schools. Located in Palos Hills, Scenic Tree Apartments has one bedroom starting at \$1,295 month and two bedrooms starting at \$1,422 month.

Call (833) 373-0161 for an appointment

Plumbing & Sewerage

Mr. Plumber
All Types of Plumbing and Sewer Services
10% Senior Discount
(773) 581-6800

Towing

QUICK Towing Service. Ask for Lee. (773) 457-2400.

Wanted To Buy

We buy junk cars. Used tires available. (773) 457-2400.

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... ARCHER / ASHLAND

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 29, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 6, 2025, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 8244 S. TROY ST, CHICAGO, IL 60652. Property Index No. 19-36-124-053-0000. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 29, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 6, 2025, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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Commonly known as 8244 S. TROY ST, CHICAGO, IL 60652. Property Index No. 19-36-124-053-0000. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Mass For Youth

Sts. Bruno & Richard Parish will celebrate Youth Masses on Dec. 22nd, Jan. 19th, Feb. 23rd and March 23rd.

9 a.m. Mass in English will be celebrated at St. Richard, 50th & Kostner. 12:30 p.m. Spanish Mass will be celebrated at St. Bruno Church, 48th & Harding.

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Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION Plaintiff, -v- ADILENE LUCIANO, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, CITY OF CHICAGO Defendants

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 12, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 13, 2025, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 3468 WEST COLUMBUS AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60652. Property Index No. 19-35-209-033-0000. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 12, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 13, 2025, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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Commonly known as 8244 S. TROY ST, CHICAGO, IL 60652. Property Index No. 19-36-124-053-0000. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Park District Proposes Budget

The Chicago Park District General Superintendent and CEO Rosa Escareño presented a \$598.5 million 2025 Budget Recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

Key investment include: building our future, investment in our workforce, strengthening programs and experiences, focusing on sustainability and resilience, community wellness, improvement in connectivity and responsible fiscal planning.

The recommendations can be viewed online at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/annual-budget-process.

To Our Advertisers: Please notify us if you find an error in your ad or if your ad failed to run. If you notify us on the first day it was scheduled to appear, we'll make the correction as soon as deadlines permit.

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION Plaintiff, -v- ANDRE L JACKSON, ALJ INVESTMENTS, INC., CITY OF CHICAGO Defendants

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 18, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 7, 2025, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 340 W. 58TH STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60621. Property Index No. 20-16-209-010-0000. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 18, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 7, 2025, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 340 W. 58TH STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60621. Property Index No. 20-16-209-010-0000. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

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Commonly known as 340 W. 58TH STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60621. Property Index No. 20-16-209-010-0000. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

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Commonly known as 340 W. 58TH STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60621. Property Index No. 20-16-209-010-0000. The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Literacy Center Invites Tutors

Aquinas Literacy Center, 1751 W. 35th st. invites volunteers to tutor an adult newcomer in the English language.

Pre-service training is provided and a two-hour weekly commitment is required. Email Sabrina@aquinasliteracycenter.org or call (773) 927-0512.

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Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION Plaintiff, -v- SHIMERA JONES Defendants

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 4, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 7, 2025, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 5307 S. EMERALD AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60609. Property Index No. 20-09-317-004-0000. The real estate is improved with a multi-family residence.

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 4, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 7, 2025, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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Application For Building Initiative

The Illinois Housing Development Authority and LISC are encouraging affordable housing developers, and those in related industries, to apply to participate in the second round of the Next Gen Capacity Building Initiative.

Applicants should have experience working in real estate development and/or finance and want to expand their expertise to complete a LIHTC project. Next Gen prioritizes applicants with geographic diversity and BIPOC developers who have had challenges accessing cost-effective capital.

Next Gen classes run from February 2025 through November 2025 and include hybrid and in-person sessions. Program curriculum includes an in-depth training series, technical assistance, and upon completing the curriculum, participants will be eligible to apply for a pre-development loan funded by IHDA and administered by LISC.

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ISAC Announces 2025-26 State Scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the state's college access and financial aid agency, announces the 2025-26 State Scholars, based on their ACT or SAT test scores and sixth semester class rank. More than 16,500 students from 684 high schools have been designated for this honor.

Each designee receives a congratulatory letter from ISAC and can download an official badge to display on their online profiles and social media platforms, as well as share with their high school counselors, colleges, employers and family members. Schools can download and print Certificates of Achievement for their students. The recognition does not include a monetary award.

High school seniors and their parents should complete the 2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or in some cases, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid when they become available early this December. The FAFSA is the application for federal and most state and institutional financial aid for any type of postsecondary education, including career and technical education, certificates, and two- or four-year degree programs.

ISAC provides free assistance year-round to students and families, assisting them with the col-

lege-going and financial aid process. Students and can attend college application workshops hosted by ISAC and/or our partners, or they can get assistance from an ISACorps member in their community. The ISACorps are recent college graduates who are trained to serve as near peer mentors to middle and high school students and their families in Illinois, helping them navigate the higher education planning and financial aid process. Students can connect with their local ISACorps member at https://studentportal.isac.org/isacorps, or attend a free workshop in their area, https://studentportal.isac.org/Events. They can also make a one-on-one virtual appointment with an ISACorps member to assist with postsecondary planning and financial aid applications, by visiting isac.org/book-

Visit the ISAC Student Portal, https://studentportal.isac.org/ for applications for ISAC financial aid programs; free tools and resources to help with college and scholarship search and career exploration; to compare financial aid offers so you can make more informed decisions about college; to get quick tips about college planning and financial aid from our College Minute™ videos, and more. Students can sign up for the ISAC College Q&A free text messaging service and get answers to their college and financial aid questions sent directly to their phones from ISAC experts. ISAC also offers free assistance through Student Engagement and Support Services, 800-899-4722.

ISAC provides free assistance year-round to students and families, assisting them with the col-

Mexican Museum Offers Programs



The National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th st. has scheduled a wide range of programs for families that provides opportunity to explore the galleries while learning about Mexican art and culture.

Most programs are free of charge; however, registration is required at email angela@national-museumofmexicanart.org

Applications For Talent Showcase

The Chicago Park District invites performers, collectives, filmmakers, and organizations to participate in the 13th season of the Night Out in the Parks cultural event series and the 12th annual Chicago Onscreen Local Film Showcase.

Contemporary Costa Portraiture: Nuestra "Calidad" in the Rubin & Paula Torres Gallery through March 16th. Nuestras Historias: Stories of Mexican Identity from the Permanent Collection.

Semilla, a solo exhibition by artist Cecilia Beaven is now open in the Chicago Gallery. The exhibition brings her imaginative universes from Mexico City to Chicago, where she has resided since 2017.

The Night Out in the Parks partnership offers support in four key ways, including grant awards, a platform to perform parks, promotion of the performances through outreach channels, and production assistance as available.

Applicants are encouraged to submit projects that include an accessibility plan that encompasses mobile access, bi-lingual narratives, ASL interpretation, audio description, and inclusiveness.

Filmmakers of all ages, skill level and professional experience are encouraged to submit work for consideration.

Selected films will be screened in outdoor movie showcases in local parks, starting in late summer 2025. Chosen films will receive an honorarium up to \$500. Categories are: arts & culture, events, events - NOTP, in the news/statements and programs.

Applicants should have experience working in real estate development and/or finance and want to expand their expertise to complete a LIHTC project. Next Gen prioritizes applicants with geographic diversity and BIPOC developers who have had challenges accessing cost-effective capital.

Next Gen classes run from February 2025 through November 2025 and include hybrid and in-person sessions. Program curriculum includes an in-depth training series, technical assistance, and upon completing the curriculum, participants will be eligible to apply for a pre-development loan funded by IHDA and administered by LISC.

Applicants should have experience working in real estate development and/or finance and want to expand their expertise to complete a LIHTC project. Next Gen prioritizes applicants with geographic diversity and BIPOC developers who have had challenges accessing cost-effective capital.

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HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE
PLEASE HELP US SPREAD HOLIDAY JOY TO FAMILIES IN NEED THIS YEAR!
DROP-OFF LOCATION: 12TH WARD OFFICE 3868 S. ARCHER AVE. 773-475-6783
OFFICE HOURS: MON 9AM - 7PM TUE-THURS 9AM - 5PM FRIDAY 9AM - 3PM

## Holiday Activities At Millennium Park



The City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events invites you to celebrate this holiday season downtown with free events for the whole family.

McCormick Tribune Ice Rink through Feb. 2nd from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Free to skate, but online reservations are required. 111th Annual City of Chicago Christmas Tree will be on display near Washington st. & Michigan ave. through Jan. 8th. Millennium Park Holi-

day Sing-Along at Cloud Gate on Fridays, Dec. 13th & 20th, 6-7 p.m.

The Chicago Cultural Center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Maggie Daley Park Skating Ribbon, 337 E. Randolph st. is open through March 9th. Free admission, skate rental is available.

Christkindlmarket Chicago at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington st. is open through Dec. 24th. Free admission.

## Brighton Park Library Schedules Programs

The Brighton Park Branch Library, 4314 S. Archer has scheduled engaging programs. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday noon to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

Workshops with Brighton Park Poets will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month where participants discuss source poems, respond to prompts and share their work. The facilitator is bilingual (English, Spanish).

Story time with Mx. Dannie for children up to 2nd grade and their families are conducted on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for stories, songs and other fun activities.

Adult Book Discussions are held on the third Friday of the month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

A Graphic Novel and Manga Book Discussion for ages 13 & up is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 19th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Middle Ground for grades 6 to 8 is offered on

Monday, Dec. 16th from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Play video games on Nintendo Switch, make crafts and art. Earn service hours for attendance.

Family Story Time will feature picture books, stories, songs and a paper craft activity on Tuesday, Dec. 17th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Baby Lapsit Story Time and Play is offered Wednesday, Dec. 18th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join Mx. Dannie for stories, songs and other fun activities as we practice literacy skills to build a love for books. Siblings are welcome.

Teen Hideaway for ages 13 to 19 is open Thursday, Dec. 12th from 5 to 7 p.m. Read in the teen area, create art of use our 3D Printer, button maker, sewing machine or vinyl cutter. Board games are also available.

Family Crafting Time is scheduled for Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Build Legos, make a craft, create art or play a board game.

Visit [chicpublib.org](http://chicpublib.org) to register.

## Holiday Zoolights At Lincoln Park Zoo



Photo provided by Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo is celebrating 30 years of Zoo Lights through Jan. 5th. The magical evening is illuminated by over three million lights and features hot chocolate and roast s'mores over an open fire pit, professional ice carvers, the best view of the city skyline from the Ferris wheel, and more.

Adults Night Out: Holiday Presented by On The Rocks Premium Cocktails and -196 Vodka

Seltzer will be held on Thursday, Dec. 12th. During this illuminated evening, the 21+ set can experience the season without kids and strollers. A live DJ, animal chats, festive foods, and free rides will get you into the holiday spirit.

Event ticket sales help to keep Lincoln Park Zoo fee and open to all. Order tickets at [lpzoo.org](http://lpzoo.org). Select Mondays are free admission.

## McKinley Library Schedules Programs

The McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th st. has scheduled interesting and informative programs. Hours are: Monday and Wednesday, 12 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Nightfall Story Time (online) Mondays, 6 p.m., ages 0-5, enjoy stories and songs. Online registration required.

The Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion will offer a series of classes on how to prepare delicious food on Tuesday, Dec. 17th at 11 a.m. Children under age 13 must be accompanied by a guardian, registration is not required.

STEM Explorers will consider computer science, physics, electricity, forensics and various STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities on Saturdays through Dec. 28th from 1 to 2 p.m. Participants engage in hands-on projects designed to develop life skills and STEM competencies. For ages 9 to 15,

but siblings are always welcome. This program is made possible by Illinois Extension College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences of University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Visit [chicpublib.org](http://chicpublib.org) to register.

## Church Services

**BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3532 S. Hoyle  
773-523-7911  
[bethanychicago.org](http://bethanychicago.org)

Ministering in McKinley Park since 1888

Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m., Alfred Delgado, speaker, who will preach in Spanish with translation to English.

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., neighbor/community night with dinner and Bible Study in the book of John. This study is in Spanish

Wednesday, Awana kids club and Youth Group is on Christmas/New Years break. Clubs will reconvene on January 22nd.

Saturday Gathering for Spanish speakers, 5:30 p.m.

**HOLY CROSS EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3116 S. Racine Ave.  
773-523-3838

Ministering in Bridgeport since 1886  
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Carlos Ortiz.

**ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3658 S. Honore  
773-376-5370

Join us for services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., Bible Study & Sunday School at 11 a.m., Chinese Bible Study every Saturday in the Ministry Center at 7:45 p.m.

## Art Contest For Illinois Students

The annual student art contest sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and Illinois State Board of Education is expanding to welcome new types of entries, on the theme "A Touch of Art!"

The deadline to submit entries is Jan. 10th. The contest is open to Illinois students from kindergarten through high school through drawings and paintings, plus three-dimensional art.

Each age group: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 will have a winner and two runners-up. The winners will be announced on March 10th to commemorate Arts Education Week.

All winners and runners-up will have their work displayed by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum through Aug. 15th, and the artwork chosen as "best of show" will be used on a poster sent to schools to celebrate Arts Education Week, March 10-14. The winner will also be recognized during an ISBE Board meeting, and a framed copy will hang in the Board office.

missions may be up to 14 inches by 11 inches. Three-dimensional submissions must not exceed 12 x 12 x 12 inches. They cannot feature copyrighted characters. More details are available at [bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest](http://bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest).

The deadline to submit entries is Jan. 10th. The contest is open to Illinois students from kindergarten through high school through drawings and paintings, plus three-dimensional art.

For more information, visit [www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov](http://www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov).

## Sing-Along At St. Richard Church

St. Bruno & Richard Parish will conduct its 1st annual Christmas Sing-Along at St. Richard Church, 50th & Kostner on Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 2 p.m.

Admission is free, all are welcome. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. For more information call (773) 585-1221 or visit [www.stsbrunorichard.org](http://www.stsbrunorichard.org).

## Holiday Season At Griffin MSI



Photo Credit: Griffin Museum of Science and Industry

Griffin Museum of Science and Industry's annual tradition, *Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light*, through Monday, Jan. 6th, 2025. Tickets for Museum visits and events are now available at [msichicago.org](http://msichicago.org).

*Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light* features more than 50 trees and displays decorated by volunteers to represent the holiday traditions from cultures around the globe. This year's show will feature the photographic work of

snowflake scientist and Caltech Physicist Ken Libbrecht, accompanied by a range of on-site programs and events for all ages.

Naughty or Nice 21+ After-Hours Event on Thursday, Dec. 12th from 6 to 10 p.m. Guests are invited to grab a seasonal cocktail or hot cocoa, take a selfie with Santa or Krampus and explore the Museum after it's been closed to the public.

Winter Break Camps: Students from Pre-K through 8th grades are invited to learn about winter science with Winter Break Camps. These week-long camps offer hands-on STE(A)M activities run by Griffin MSI's Education team like creating winter-themed crafts with 3D printers, vinyl cutters and more in the Wagner Family Fab Lab. Camps run Monday, Dec. 30th, through Friday, Jan. 3rd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (with no camp on Jan. 1st).

Every 30 minutes, Museum guests can experience the magic of snowfall amid Christmas trees in the North Court, near the Grand Tree.

## Illinois EPA Contest For 5th & 6th Grades

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is inviting fifth and sixth grade writers and artists to participate in this year's Poster, Poetry, and Prose Contest. The 2025 theme *How Can You Slash Your Trash?* invites students to think creatively about how to reduce the amount of waste they produce. This could include buying fewer single-use products, diverting food waste, repairing broken items instead of replacing or buying new, and recycling responsibly.

Educators are encouraged to introduce the Illinois EPA's curricula units on waste management and food waste (available for free at: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/education.html>). These units, which are aligned to Next Generation Science Standards, offer lesson plans and activities to help students understand the amount of waste thrown away individually and collectively, why that causes problems, and how waste reduction can positively impact the environment. Additional informational

resources have been shared by the Illinois EPA on the contest website. After learning about waste reduction, students are invited to create posters or written works for the contest related to this year's theme. Teachers may display the submissions for voting and submit final entries to the Illinois EPA for further judging. Teachers may submit up to eight individual entries per school by February 3, 2025.

The creation of posters and written works gives students an opportunity to express and share what they have learned. The students whose works are chosen for the exhibit will receive a certificate and ribbon. The top twelve entries will be given special recognition and displayed on the Illinois EPA website.

In addition to the individual student contest, this year's competition also includes a group video contest for 5th and 6th grade classrooms. Each class is invited to submit a 60-second video that highlights waste reduction strategies in accordance with the same theme. Homeschool units, 4-H clubs, scout troops, and other extracurricular or after school groups with a minimum of five students are also eligible to participate in the video contest.

Additional information, rules, and required documents for both contests can be found at: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/education/contest.html>. Other questions can be directed to Kristi Morris at [illinois.gov](mailto:illinois.gov), or Eli Dollarhide at [eli.dollarhide@illinois.gov](mailto:eli.dollarhide@illinois.gov).

## Free Services For Seniors

Chicagoans age 60 and over who need help at home may contact the DFSS Senior Services Division at [aging@cityofchicago.org](mailto:aging@cityofchicago.org) or (312) 744-4016.

Free Chore services include: short-term temporary light home-making tasks like cleaning, laundry, shopping and self-care tasks like bathing, grooming or dressing after recovering from an illness or life transition.

Heavy-duty - a one-time deep cleaning, removing trash or clutter, packing items and moving furniture.

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apply online!

## Jazz Links Jam Session

A Jazz Links Jam session for students ages 9 to 19 will be held at the Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Court on Wednesday, Jan. 8th from 5 to 7 p.m.

Historically, jam sessions take place after-hours in the clubs, making it impossible for student musicians to participate.

Students perform with one another and with the Jazz Links house band, which includes world-class, professional jazz musicians. The event is free and open to the public. Future sessions are scheduled for Feb. 12th, March 12th, April 9th and May 14th.

For more information, visit [www.JazzInChicago.org](http://www.JazzInChicago.org).

## Comedy Show At Beverly Arts Ctr.

Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. will present Laugh your way into 2025, with Mike Toomey's New Year's Eve Comedy Show! on Tuesday, Dec. 31st at 6 pm. Visit [beverlyartscenter.com](http://beverlyartscenter.com) or call (773) 445-3838.

## Community Bonfire At McKinley Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Community Bonfire at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Thursday, Dec. 19th from 5 to 7 p.m.

Spend the evening trying out the skating rink, meeting your neighbors, learning about local wildlife and warming up next to a fire.

Bring your own marshmallows, roasting sticks will be available.

Skate rentals are free during the two hours of the bonfire.

## Advisory Council For Seniors

Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services Senior Advisory Council is accepting applications through Dec. 13th.

Members provide input for programs and services, identify service gaps and advise on how to strengthen and expand programming.

Submit applications to 6117 S. Kedzie ave. or online at <https://bit.ly/309bsrB>.

## Toy Drive In 12th Ward

12th Ward Alderwoman Julia Ramirez is conducting a Toy Drive at 3868 S. Archer ave. through Dec. 20th.

Donations will be given to low-income families in Brighton Park and McKinley Park.

Office hours are Monday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tues. - Thurs. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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