



Preparing for Finances in 2024



By Dr. R. Pletsch

Some go to "elite" schools that would cost \$70,000 a year, while someone else who knows goes to a smaller state school, they live at home and only spend \$7,000 for the year. Both these students graduate and look for employment. It's possible that they will work on the same pay scale. This is true of most big companies including the biggest, State and Federal government, the military, educators.

Then they expect help getting their student loans paid. This is punishing those who went to a school they could afford because they want you to pay their bills. Maybe you could explain that. Now illegal aliens, who the vast majority are not refugees, just immigrants, in reports from people I trust, have told me that some are given free things and still complain because they're not new. They certainly aren't hungry because the government takes care of that.

You may ask who pays that money, the answer is simple. You have it, it's you and me. They're paid not just with income tax, but fees and charges for everything, water, electric, heating, phones and anything the politicians can find to balance the budget. If you don't believe this, follow your bills and compare them.

Some in our neighborhoods believe that the government only pays with rich people's money. They may pay more, but

there aren't enough of them. These are all there that you can check, don't just trust everyone to give you a straight answer. I have known politicians who don't count fees assessed on a bill as taxes and they say, we didn't raise the taxes, but your bill is higher.

The thing that really can cost you a bundle is the mandate that eventually we must all drive electric cars. Here are simple facts. Electric cars cost a lot more than gas driven cars, like the ones most of us drive. They also cost more to repair and because the cost is higher, your insurance will go up. Replacement parts are more expensive. I will admit that companies are working hard to make the electrical chargers more accessible and making the machines faster.

I have not seen statistics that tell me electric per mile is cheaper than gas per mile. As far as the ecology goes, the stats I've seen are so different from one report to another, I believe that right now figures are probably unreliable. One thing is sure, many of us with gas powered vehicles are being constantly bombarded by auto dealers trying to purchase our cars. Why? I asked and was told people want to hold on to gas driven cars because people have a history of not wanting to be the first to try the new technology.

We have a problem disposing of the heavy lithium batteries. They are hard to safely dispose of. Many are just buried and if you have to buy a new one you have to buy them from China. If they cut us off, we have problems. Remember the oil boycotts by OPEC? What a mess. If you are too young to remember, ask us old timers or do a google search.

Good luck in the new year. Remember while we are being swarmed by people who want to live here, most appear to be no different than many of our families. Basically want to be successful Americans. Those that don't, let's change their minds.

Hoops At McKinley Park



The Chicago Park District will conduct a basketball competition for ages 11 through 16 versus first responders at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Mondays, Jan. 15th and Feb. 19th from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants will also enjoy pizza and prizes. Pre-register at chicagoparkdistrict.com

Library Conducts Career Workshops

The Chicago Public Library will conduct College and Career Business and Entrepreneurship Workshop at Whitney M. Young, Jr.

Library, 415 E. 79th st. on Saturday, Jan. 20th from 1 to 3 p.m.

Design your life after high school by exploring the options available after graduation.

Network with industry professionals. Learn about opportunities, internships, college and trade programs. Engage in fun related activities, win prize and get a free lunch.

For ages 14-22. Online registration is encouraged at frice@chippublib.org.

The first hours are open for industry presenter tables, partner tables, programs, lunch and activities. The panel discussion with industry professionals and raffle of prizes begins at 2 p.m. Winners must be present.

Traditional Polish Carols Concert



The Lira Singers accompanied by The Lira Chamber Players will perform a concert of Polish & American Carols, after Christmas at Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church, 1118 N. Noble st. on Sunday, Jan. 7th at 5 p.m. Adults are \$30 with clergy/children/students with IDs, free. Parking is free. Visit liraensemble.org for more information.

Winter Flower Show In Garfield Park



Photo provided by Chicago Park District

The Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park ave., Winter Flower Show "Silver: Celebrating 25" recognizes the Conservatory Alliance's 25th anniversary. Formed by community members in 1998, the non-profit organization connects people to nature through public programming, school partnerships and fundraising initiatives. Silver foliage, lush poinsettias, winter flowers and plants will be on display through Jan. 7th. Open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is required at <https://garfieldconservatory.org/visit>.

Winter Programs At Park 596

Park 596 at the Brighton Park Community Campus, 4830 S. Western offers Winter Programs, Monday, Jan. 8th to Sunday, March 24th. Fieldhouse hours are weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Resident fees are listed. Non-resident fees are double.

Early Childhood: Kiddie College, M, W and F, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (age 4-5) \$50; Play School, Tu. and Th., 10 to 11:30 a.m. (age 3-4) \$25; Art & ABC's Tu., 1 to 1:45 p.m. (age 3-4) \$10; Tiny Tot Sports, Th., 12 to 12:45 p.m. (age 3-5) \$10; and Soccer Skills, Sat., 10 to 10:45 a.m. (age 4) \$10.

Youth: Park Kids, M-F, 3 to 6 p.m. (age 6-13) \$50; Basketball Skills, Mon., 6 to 6:45 p.m. (age 11-14) \$10; Seasonal Sports, Mon., 4 to 4:45 p.m. (age 6-8) \$10; Dodgeball, Tu., 4 to 4:45 p.m. (age 6-8) \$10; Volleyball Drills, W, 6 to

6:45 p.m. (age 11-14) \$10; Indoor Soccer, Th. 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. (age 9-12) \$10; Soccer Skills, Sat., 11 to 11:45 a.m. (age 5-6) \$10; Soccer Skills, Sat. 12 to 12:45 p.m. (age 7-8) \$10 and Soccer Skills, Sa. 1 to 1:45 p.m. (age 11 to 12) \$10.

Teen (Free): Volleyball Open, W, 7 to 8:15 p.m. (age 13-17); Basketball Open, F, 7 to 8:15 p.m. (age 13-17); and Teen FitBox, F, 6 to 6:45 p.m. (age 13-17).

Adult: Basketball Open, M, 7 to 8 p.m., \$15; Circuit Training, W, 6 to 6:45 p.m., \$10; Abs & Core, Th, 4 to 4:45 p.m., \$10; Boot Camp, Th, 5 to 5:45 p.m., \$10; Yoga, Th, 6 to 6:45 p.m., \$10; Pickleball - Open, F, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Circuit Training, Sat., 9 to 9:45 a.m., \$10.

Senior (Free): Chair Exercise, Tu, 10 to 10:45 a.m.; Back & Balance, Th, 10 to 10:45 a.m. and Senior Citizen Club, T, Th, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Fitness Center hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, visit chicagoparkdistrict.com or call (312) 742-4600.

CAPS Beat 912 Plans Meeting

Beat 912 of the 9th District Police Dept. will conduct public meetings at the McKinley Park Fieldhouse, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month beginning Jan. 10th from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

Residents will have the opportunity to meet beat officers, discuss problems and crime conditions, receive crimes stats and learn crime reduction strategies.

For additional information contact the Community Policing Office at (312) 747-3501 or email caps.009@chicagopolice.org.

Beat Meeting For 9th Dist. Police

The Chicago Police Department 9th District will conduct a public meeting for Beats 921 & 922 at the Brighton Park Branch Library, 4314 S. Archer, Thursday, March 7th. Beat 921 will meet from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by Beat 922 from 7 to 8 p.m.

The Community Policing Office will share crime statistics, teach crime fighting strategies and listen to issues.

A "Kids Only" table full of crafts and activities will entertain them while the adults engage in the meetings.

Open Studios At Bridgeport Art Ctr.



Provided by Bridgeport Art Center

The Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th st. will conduct 3rd Fridays Open Studio on Jan. 19th from 7 to 10 p.m. Enter and check-in through the Atrium Entrance off of Racine Street. +21 wristbands are available at check-in for complimentary wine bar.

Homogeneous Hues through Jan. 5th in the 3rd floor gallery curated by Kelvin Taylor and Marci Rubin, features artworks created by Bridgeport Art Center's artists whose primary subject is the exploration of a specific color or color palette.

"Spacing Out" through Jan. 12th in studio 4D4400 is what happens when artists hold comets in their hands and press pigments out of planets. Picture pieces that mirror the vastness of he night sky, blending the marvels of astronomy and the magic of astrology.

Park Yon-jae is a Korean visual designer who has been a professor in the Department of Industrial Design at Joongbu University for 24 years. Under the theme of "Return to Nature," his exhibition expresses human desire to return to pure nature. The opening reception scheduled for Friday, Jan. 19th from 7 to 10 p.m.

The opening reception for "Decadence Of Another Kind" will be

held on Friday, Jan. 19th from 7 to 10 p.m. "To Thine Own Self Be True" or "Keeping it Real In 2020s" - Shakespeare offered this exhortation nearly 500 years ago and it must follow, as the night the day, that we are still seeking authenticity in an often confusing world. Let art lead the way, as these 12 artists have cracked the code in presenting their true selves to the world as Black Artists. Their varied approaches to art include textiles, paintings, sculptures and installations that reflect historical and cultural significance.

The Chicago Ceramic Center is conducting pottery classes and hand-building workshops, next sessions begin Sunday, Jan. 21st.

The opening reception for Onion City Memories, an art exhibition by Muddy AKA @MahmudTheMedium will be held on Friday, Jan. 19th from 7 to 10 p.m. This exhibition will bring attendees into Muddy's world of Onion City, a futuristic alternate reality inspired by Chicago and other places that Muddy has lived in and visited. Each piece will be a window into specific moments and memories of the original characters.

Register at bridgeportart.com

Art Contest For Teenagers

The Chicago Public Library invites teens to submit their art to Teen Winter Challenge 2024 to win prizes.

High school students between the age of 13 to 19 who live in Chicago may submit a portfolio of one to three original works created in the past two years, along with an artist statement before March 4th.

Every applicant will have one work printed in the 9th annual Teen Winter Challenge catalog, which will be added to the YOUmedia Zine collection and posted online.

Up to 12 exceptional pieces will receive one of the following Amazon gift card amounts, as well as mounted exhibition at Harold Washington Library Center:

Senior Achievement Award, open to high

school seniors: Grand prize: \$175 gift card; First and second runners-up: \$125 gift card.

Young Artist Award, open to high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors: Grand prize: \$175 gift card; First and second runners-up: \$125 gift card.

Distinction of Merit, open to all Chicago high school students: Honorable mentions (6): \$50 gift card; Finalist (13): \$25 gift card.

Winners will be notified by Spring 2024. Those who submit a portfolio, authorize Chicago Public Library to post a copy of work with first name, last initial attribution in the Chicago Public Library collection, website, social media channels and other marketing initiatives.

Visit chippublib.org for more information.

"Illumination" Display At Morton Arboretum



Provided by Morton Arboretum

Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum will brighten up the holiday season through Jan. 6th.

This year's exhibition will feature 18 dazzling light and music displays, including two new and four updated experiences, along a new reversed route that is ADA compliant and accessible for all visitors. The Illumination journey begins in The Grand Garden after entering through a gateway of light. The more immersive mile-long path surrounds guests with light and music in enhanced exhibits Golden Glade and Ornament Hill, leading to a water-front finale synchronized to music at Meadow Lake.

Brand new displays are Starlit Trail - large twinkling "stars" that envelop the walking path - and Winter Radiance - LED "tall grasses" that pay homage to native Midwest plant species. They join returning favorites such as Symphony Woods, Treemagination, Festival of Lanterns and more.

Warm concession tents will offer beverages and snacks, such as s'mores kits, hot chocolate and festive cocktails,

Thornton Graduates

Jessica Thornton is among 1,470 prospective candidates for degree attending University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee commencement exercises on Sunday, Dec. 17th.

The College of Letters and Science will confer a Bachelor of Arts degree.

beer and wine, to enjoy by crackling bonfires along the route.

The exhibition was custom designed and developed uniquely for the Arboretum in partnership with international media and exhibit designers Lightswitch LLC and features energy-efficient, eco-friendly LED lighting.

Illumination tickets are available at mortonarb.org and in-person at the Visitor Center during operating hours. Ticket prices for *Illumination* and Electric *Illumination* vary based on the day and time selected, beginning at \$18. Children under age 2 are admitted free of charge. Through the Museums for All program, reduced-rate week-night tickets are available to those with a state-issued EBT or LINK card, or a valid WIC card, while supplies last.

Illumination is generously sponsored by Invesco QQQ, ComEd, and Duly Health and Care.

Civic Meeting In Archer Heights

The Archer Heights Civic Association will conduct a general membership meeting in St. Richard Church basement, 50th & Kostner on Wednesday, Jan. 10th at 7:30 p.m.

President Tom Baliga invites all residents to attend and get involved. Neighborhood issues and projects will be discussed. Cake and coffee will follow.

Special Events At Chgo. History Museum

The Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark st. is featuring the "Back Home: Polish Chicago" exhibit. Visitors may view the costume and props from the nativity play, "Betlejem Polskie" which premiered in 1904.

CHM members are invited to a panel discussion with Zbigniew Banas, instructor of Polish and European Cinema at Loyola University Chicago; Michael J. Kutza, filmmaker, graphic designer, and founder of the Chicago International Film Festival; and Jan M. Lorys, historian at the Polish Museum of America on Tuesday, Jan. 16th at 6 p.m. RSVP is

required. Bring your group to the Chicago History Museum during January or February and enjoy \$2 off per person for group admission and guided gallery tours. Minimum of 10 people required.

Through Saturday, Jan. 6th, all gift memberships are 20% off with code 23WIHOL. Members enjoy exclusive events, double discount weeks, and more.

Call Hannah Johnson at (312) 799-2113.

Jazz Fair At Cultural Center

The Jazz Institute of Chicago will sponsor the Winter Jazz Fair at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington st. on Friday, Feb. 28th from 12 to 9 p.m. Admission is free.

Attendees will enjoy performances, discussions, vendor booth and instrument sales. For more information, visit jazzinchicago.org/jazzfair.

LAVAN Insurance Agency

3956 S. California Ave. Chicago, IL 60632

50 YEARS 1969-2019 AUTO HOME COMMERCIAL

SR22 • Tickets/Accidents OK • Prior Insurance Not Required

Se Habla Español

773.247.6765

www.lavaninsurance.com

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. Opinions expressed by guest editorials may not represent the viewpoints held by the publisher of the Brighton Park - McKinley Park Life Newspaper.

Ridge Library Plans Programs

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

An Adult Book Discussion: "Now Is Not The Time to Panic" by Kevin Wilson will be held on Thursday, Jan. 11th from 6 to 7 p.m.

Baby Time for ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers will be held on Fridays, Jan. 12th to Feb. 23rd from 10 to 10:30 a.m. We will share books, songs and play together.

An Adult Planner Meet-Up is scheduled for Saturdays, Jan. 27th & Feb. 24th from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring your own journal/planner, stickers, wash tape and gel pens, to create a planner for the new year. Some art supplies, gel pens, markers, and stickers and light refreshments will be provided. Feel free to bring a treat to share.

Time for Tots Story time for ages 15 to 36 months and a caregiver is available on Mondays, Jan. 29th, Feb. 5th & 26th and March 11th to 25th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Join us for stories, songs, rhymes and a themed craft to take home. Early arrivals can color, build puzzles and play with toys. Great opportunity to socialize and learn how to share, take turns and clean up.

Stories & Songs for ages 18 months to 4 years will be held on Wednesdays, Jan. 31st, Feb. 7th, 21st & 28th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Early arrivals can build puzzles. Free play follows each session.

Children learn to share and socialize with their peers.

The Spanish Book Club for adults will meet on Thursday, Jan. 4th from 1 to 2 p.m.

Teen Designs: Beanie for ages 13 to 19 will be conducted on Tuesday, Jan. 16th from 6 to 7 p.m. Use the vinyl cutter and heat transfer vinyl to customize your hat. All supplies will be provided. Make sure to register.

Chess for ages 6 to 13 will be played Wednesdays, Jan. 17th to 31st from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Play different opponents to improve your skills.

Play Day for ages 5 to 9 years will be enjoyed on Saturday, Jan. 20th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Toy kitchen, trains, cars, Bingo dabbers, stampers, train, dolls and more will be available.

Teen Designs: Perler Beads for ages 13 to 19 is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 23rd from 6 to 7 p.m. The button maker, vinyl cutter and more will also be available.

Craft ArtVentures for ages 5 to 13 will be held Tuesdays, Jan. 30th and Feb. 6th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. A variety of craft supplies will be provided.

Teen Designs: Paper Flower Bouquets for ages 13 to 19 is set for Tuesday, Jan. 30th from 6 to 7 p.m. We'll show you how to fold, glue and set up your bouquet. Snacks will be provided. Registration is required.

Register for events at <https://chipublib.bibliocommons.com/events/>

Youth & Awana Clubs At Bethany Baptist



The Youth Group & Awana Clubs at Bethany Baptist, 3520 S. Hoyne will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for the winter/spring session, Jan. 10th to May 1st. For more information, call (773) 523-7911 or visit bethanychicago.org.

New Job Laws Expand Leave Rights

Two laws taking effect Jan. 1st, will expand leave rights for workers whose lives were impacted by violence.

Public Act 103-0314 amends the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act and allows employees to take up to two weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave from work to attend a funeral, arrange a funeral, or grieve, if a family or household member is killed in a crime of violence.

Existing provisions allow unpaid time off for reasons including, medical attention, counseling, victim services, relocating, or participating in legal proceedings.

Public Act 103-0466 establishes the Child Extended Bereavement Leave Act and provides job-protected, unpaid leave for parents who experience the loss of a child through suicide or homicide.

Length of leave under CEBSA is determined on employer size: For employers of 50-249 employees: 6 weeks. For employers of 250+ employees: 12 weeks. Employers of fewer than 50 employees are not covered.

Food Distribution At I-C Parish

The Greater Chicago Food Depository conducts weekly food distribution at Immaculate Conception, 2745 W. 44th st. every Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. and every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Brighton Park proof of residency is required.

Monthly food distribution is conducted on the 4th Thursday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m. No proof of residency is needed.

Archer Heights Library Schedules Programs

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

Wednesday Book Clubs for Polish on 3rd Wednesday each month at 6:30 p.m. and English 4th Wednesday each month at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Pick up copies at the circulation desk. No registration required.

Family Story and Play Time for ages 0 to 5 and caregivers is held on Thursdays through Feb. 29th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sing and dance your way through an active story time filled with exciting books. Open play follows with giant blocks, puppets and make new friends.

Homework help is available from a certified teacher on Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m.

A Craft Lab to create Clay Pinch Pots for ages 13 & up will be held on Monday, Jan. 8th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All materials will be provided.

Popcorn Reading for ages 6 to 13, will be available Wednesdays through Feb. 28th from 5 to 6 p.m. Practice your reading skills in a fun and supportive environment. Each week we will make our way through two books by taking turns reading aloud. This program is meant for children learning to read or need to practice reading aloud.

Self-Care Club for ages 13 to 19 will be featured Thursdays, Jan. 4th and Feb. 1st from 4 to 5 p.m. Come enjoy an hour of

rest and relaxation, learning to care for your mental health.

Beading Time: Crafts for Adults to make jewelry and ornaments will be held on Saturdays, Jan. 5th and Feb. 3rd from 2 to 3 p.m. Patrons can bring their own beads or use ours.

Maker Mondays for ages 13 to 19 will be offered on Jan. 8th and 29th, Feb. 5th and 26th from 4 to 5 p.m. Spend an hour each week working on a fun art project. Materials will be provided.

Create Cafe Club for ages 13 to 19 is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 11th from 4 to 5 p.m. Have fun making and decorating waffles, pizzas and more. Inform staff of any allergies or food sensitivities.

Fun Club for ages 3 to 13 will be held on Tuesdays, Jan. 16th to Feb. 13th and 27th from 4 to 5 p.m. Explore a craft, experience or engineering project followed by play with LEGO bricks, car tracks and more.

Sit 'n Stitch: Crochet and knitting Club for ages 13 to 19 will be held Thursdays, Jan. 18th and Feb. 15th from 4 to 5 p.m. Learn new patterns or swap supplies. Bring your own materials, as supplies may be limited.

Pizza Stories and Crafts for ages 5 and caregivers will be featured on Saturday, Jan. 20th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Video Games - Mario Kart on the Nintendo Switch for ages 10 to 13 will be played on Monday, Jan. 29th from 6 to 7 p.m.

For more information, visit chipublib.org.

Yoga Class At Nature Museum



The Chicago Academy of Sciences, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 North Cannon dr., will conduct a Butterfly Haven Yoga on Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. Must be 18 or older to participate. Register online in advance at naturemuseum.org. Museum admission is included in ticket price.

Ice Skating Rink At McKinley Park



Photo courtesy Chicago Park District

The McKinley Park Ice Rink, 2210 W. Pershing rd. is temporarily closed due to mechanical issues. Pre-registration on Mondays at noon for the sessions that run two weeks later.

Register on Jan. 8th for the week of Jan. 22nd - 28th; Jan. 15th for Jan. 29th - Feb. 4th; Jan. 22nd for Feb. 5th - 11th and Jan. 29th for Feb. 12th - 19th.

Pre-registration is required for all programs including Open Skate, Senior Skate, Stick & Puck and Pond Hockey, Rat Hockey and Drop-In Learn to Skate Lessons. For information on hosting a private event, call (312) 747-5992.

Sports Clinic For Military

The Chicago Park District will host its third annual Windy City Winter Sports Clinic at McKinley Park on Feb. 15th. The urban adaptive sports clinic is intended for veterans and active duty personnel with physical, visual or invisible disabilities.

This is an instructional clinic, no previous experience is required to participate. Attendees will have the opportunity to try ice skating, biathlon, curling, snowshoeing, mountain biking, floor hockey and more.

Applicants will be notified of their acceptance status by Jan. 30th. Visit veterans@chicagoparkdistrict.com

IDOR Provides Tax Filing Help

The Illinois Department of Revenue is providing taxpayers with tips and alerting them to changes when filing their 2023 state income taxes.

Documents, records, or receipts needed need to file include: Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from 2022 IL-1040, Copy of federal income tax return and schedules, Copies of W-2 and 1099 forms, Property Number and amount of property taxes paid if claiming a property tax credit, Voluntary emergency worker credit certificate, Receipts for qualified education or moving expenses. Routing and account number if due a refund and choose to deposit refund directly into checking or savings account.

Taxpayers may be able to reduce the amount of taxes owed through the Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit, Illinois K-12 Education Expense Credit, and Property Tax Credit.

The Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit has been increased to 20% of the Federal EITC and expanded to include those who are: 18-25 years of age and older and 65 and older without a qualifying child, and filing with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number or have children with an ITIN.

For the most up-to-date information, forms, schedules, and instructions for the 2023 tax season, visit tax.illinois.gov

Teen Club At Archer Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Teen Club at Archer Park, 4901 S. Kilbourn for ages 13 to 17 on Wednesdays and Fridays, Jan. 17th to March 22nd.

Contact the park during regular business hours for registration, (773) 284-7029.

Museum of Asian Art Schedules Programs



Traditional Ink Painting Workshop.

The Heritage Museum of Asian Art, 3500 S. Morgan st. offers 3rd Friday tours monthly at 6:30 p.m. Participants will explore the 3rd floor of Asian art from the Main, Ming and Scholar's Galleries. Free parking, museum admission and appetizer

will be available. The Main Gallery displays artifacts from China, Japan, Korea, Cambodia, Thailand, India and other Asian countries.

The Ming Gallery features Chinese art from the Ming Dynasty, including statues, furniture, paintings, calligraphy, etc.

The Scholar's Gallery gives a glimpse into the lifestyle of a typical Chinese scholar in the Qing dynasty: their furniture, tools, and objects of contemplation.

Free admission museum nights take place every third Friday of each month from 5 to 8 p.m. The tour will start at 6:30 p.m. The event offers wine and appetizer.

"ICON" an exhibit featuring Buddhas will be on display through Jan. 28th. The artist Zingrui Xu (b. 1995; China, Kunshan) lives and works in Chicago. He studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and received his MA in Ceramics from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2022.

The Buddha is the most widely recognized figure from any Asian religion. Buddhists have long held the belief that the image houses its essence.

For additional information visit heritagemuseum.org.

Paid Leave In Cook County

Beginning Dec. 31st, workers in Cook County will earn at least one hour of paid leave for every 40 hours worked to be used for any reason. Visit www.cookcountyil.gov/PaidLeave for more information.

Contest To Name City Snowplows

The Department of Streets and Sanitation announced the second annual 'You Name A Snowplow' contest. Chicago residents are encouraged to create innovative names and submit them to www.chicagoshovels.org by Jan. 12th. At the end of the contest, DSS will pick the top six names, and those names will represent one snowplow in each of the City's six snow districts, joining the named snowplow fleet announced earlier this year.

Due to a near-tie for sixth place, seven winning names were chosen for the first contest, including: Mrs. O'Leary's Plow, Da Plow, Salter Payton, Sears Plower, Sleet Home Chicago, Holy Plow! and Jean Baptiste Point du Shovel.

This year's event will have two phases. First, the City will gather names from the submissions, which are limited to one per person and 50 characters in length. When the submission pe-

riod closes on Jan. 12th or when the City receives 20,000 submissions, DSS staff will choose 50 finalists. In the second phase, which will begin on Jan. 22nd, residents may vote for up to six names by Feb. 2nd. The top six will be featured on one snowplow in each of the City's six snow districts.

Signage for the winning names will be installed on the snowplows, and residents who submitted the winning names (earliest time stamp when there are multiple submissions) will be offered a photo opportunity with the named snowplow along with city swag.

Residents will be able to view the named snowplows, along with the city's full snow fleet, in real-time during winter storms via plow tracker.



EMERGENCY HEATING REPAIR PROGRAM (EHRP) 2023-2024

The Emergency Heating Repair Program (EHRP) is a grant program available to income-eligible Chicago homeowners for service to repair or replace their furnace or boiler heating system. Grant funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD

November 1, 2023 to April 1, 2024
You can call 311, go to the CHI311 app, or visit www.chicago.gov/ehrp to apply

MAXIMUM GROSS INCOME (2023)

Size of Household	80% Area Median Income
1 Person	\$61,600
2 Person	\$70,600
3 Person	\$78,450
4 Person	\$88,250
5 Person	\$95,350
6 Person	\$102,400
7 Person	\$109,450
8 Person	\$116,500

The program is open to Chicagoans who own and occupy a 1-to-4 unit residential property within the city limits. The property must be in habitable condition and not at risk of foreclosure. Commercial and mixed-use properties do not qualify.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
312-744-3653 | DOH@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG



St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish Welcomes You

Both Churches are Handicapped Accessible

<p>Masses at St. Barbara Bridgeport — 2859 S. Throop Saturday, 5 PM, Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM 6 AM & 9:30 AM Sunday Masses Weekday Schedule (Chapel) Tue., Thurs., & Sat. 8 AM Mass</p>	<p>Masses at St. Therese Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander Sunday Masses 8AM in English 10:30am Cantonese Weekday Schedule Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass January 7, 2024</p>
--	---

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

Happy New Year 2024

See YOU in Church this weekend

EMISSIONS FAILURE SPECIALISTS * GUARANTEED RESULTS

Autotime

COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE

3430 W. 47th St.
773/376-4264

Master Auto & Truck Technicians
Certified in All Areas Of Repair!

Mon. - Fri. 6 a.m.-6p.m.
Sat. 6 a.m. -12 noon

TOWING SERVICE

GET READY FOR WINTER AND DRIVE CAREFREE!

CHECK ALL SYSTEMS

- HEAT • DEFROST
- BATTERY • TUNE-UP
- TIRES • TRANSMISSION

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.

Help with Homework from the Teacher in the Library program is available on Mondays from 3:30 to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Chicago Police Department 9th District Beats 921 & 922 meet on Thursday, Jan. 4th. Beat 921 from 6 to 7 p.m. and Beat 922 from 7 to 8 p.m. The Community Policing Office will share crime statistics, teach crime fighting strategies and listen to issues. A "Kids Only" table full of crafts and other fun activities will entertain the little ones while the adults engage in the meetings.

Poetry Workshop with Brighton Park Poets will be held on Sunday, Jan. 7th from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Participants will discuss source poems, respond to thoughtful prompts and share their work.

The facilitator is bilingual (English, Spanish). Though most of the workshop will be facilitated in English, work written in Spanish is welcome and prompts can be offered in both languages.

Teen Hideaway for ages 13 to 19 will be held on Thursdays through Feb. 8th from 4 to 6 p.m. and Tuesdays through Jan. 30th from 4 to 6 p.m. Design and create with our 3D Printer, button maker, vinyl cutter, play video or board games.

Join us for a discussion of "Silver Nitrate" by Silvia Moreno-Garcia on Friday, Jan. 19th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. This event is available in person and online via Zoom. Register at least 24 hours before the event.

Preschool Story Time for children up to kindergarten and their families will be held on Wednesdays, Jan. 3rd to 31st from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Join Mx. Dannie for stories, songs and other fun activities as we practice literacy skills and build a love for books.

Middle Ground for grades 6 to 8 is available on Tuesday, Jan. 9th

from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Play video games on Nintendo Switch, make crafts and art. Earn service hours for attendance.

Protest Banner Dedication will be observed on Saturday, Jan. 13th from 12 to 2 p.m. Results of the "Protest Banner Making Workshops," hosted by artist Aram Han Si-fuentesas will be unveiled. The event will feature music, cake and a fun kids activity.

Graphic Novel and Manga Book Discussion is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 18th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The group will be discussing Golden Rage, volume 1, by Chrissy Williams and Akira, Book One by Katsuhiko Otomo.

Smartphone Photography 101: Starring your Neighborhood will be taught on Tuesday, Jan. 23rd from 6 to 7 p.m. Learn mobile photography tips and tricks, explore options for editing your creations.

Family Story Time with picture books, stories, songs and paper craft activity will be available on Tuesdays through March 12th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Visit chicagopubliclibrary.org to register.

Jazz Concerts At UChicago

The Jazz Institute of Chicago partner organizations, UChicago Presents have scheduled a five concert series Jazz At Logan Center. Subscribe now and save \$50 (25% off the single-ticket price). Five the jazz concerts for only \$150. Plus, get 20% off concerts outside your subscription.

Free pre-school concerts by JIC Students Council alumni and other young rising stars will be performed in Cafe Logan. The schedule includes Jeff Parker & The New Breed on Friday, Jan. 26th at 7:30 p.m. Emmet Cohen Tri on Friday, April 5th at 7:30 p.m. One of the finest piano players to emerge in decades and a frequent headliner at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Fire and Water Quintet on Friday, April 19th at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, visit jazzinchicago.org.

Holiday Festival At Science Museum



Photo provided by the Museum of Science and Industry

The Museum of Science and Industry's annual holiday spectacle, *Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light*, which runs through Jan. 7th, features a forest of more than 50 trees and displays decorated by volunteers to represent the holiday traditions from cultures around the globe.

FEMA Assistance For Sept. Storm

FEMA assistance for Cook County survivors affected by the Sept. 17th-18th severe storms and flooding has topped \$20 million.

More than 6,500 households have been approved for FEMA grants, including: \$17.8 million in housing grants, including short-term rental assistance and home repair costs.

Nearly \$2.4 million approved for other essential disaster-related needs, such as expenses related to medical, dental, and lost personal possessions. More than 10,300 home inspections have been completed.

1,586 homeowners and renters have visited four Disaster Recovery Centers.

FEMA's Disaster Survivor Assistance crews have visited more than 14,084 homes and 1,098 businesses and helped 200 households apply for assistance.

Residents of Cook County with uninsured or under insured losses from the September storms and flooding have until Jan. 19th, to apply for assistance at DisasterAssistance.gov or call 800-621-3362.

Additional holiday programs and events will take place throughout the remainder of 2023, including:

The MSI Holiday Market offers roasted and candied nuts, hot chocolate or mulled apple cider, and chocolate chip cookies.

Antarctica at the Giant Dome Theater: Experience the snowy tundra of Antarctica on a five-story screen through Jan. 7th.

Snowflake Science by Caltech Physicist Ken Libbrecht will feature photographs of real snowflakes.

Experience the Magic of Snowfall: Every 30 minutes, guests can experience the magic of snowfall amid Christmas trees in the North Court.

Obituaries

GENOWEFA TRUTY, (nee Dziechciowska); wife of Dan Truty; mother of Mariusz, Marcin (Bridgid), Grzegorz (Katarzyna) and Anna Truty; grandmother of Donivin, Hamiley, Elena, Oliwer and Oktawia Truty; sister of Krzysztof (Maria) Dziechciowski. Visitation was held Friday, Dec. 29th at Zarzycki Manor Chaps, Willow Springs. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 30th at St. Faustina Kowalska Church. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery.

Family Events At Beverly Arts Ctr.

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. will present The School of Fine Arts Winter/ Spring 2024 catalog is now available. Learn more about classes for dance, visual arts, music, theatre, senior, fitness and more.

Lisa Rock and Natalie Cordone in 80s Night Out Music Concert on Friday, Jan. 19th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 (plus applicable fees).

Heartsfield Band will perform on Saturday, Jan. 13th at 8 p.m. This Chicago band with roots in Southern rock has toured nationwide since the 1970s.

For ticket information, visit beverlyartscenter.com.

Snowshoe Event At Ryan Woods

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct a Snowshoeing event at Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th & Western on Saturday, Jan. 13th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

If conditions are not favorable for snowshoeing (4" or more of packed snow), hikes and other activities will be offered. Contact (312) 415-2970.

Symphony Center Schedules Concerts

Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan ave. announces its schedule of concerts.

Once Upon a Symphony, The Three Little Pigs, Jan. 6th; New World Perspectives, Jan. 8th and Makaya McCraven with special guest Meshell Ndegeocello, Jan. 19th; Lucas & Arthur Jussen, Jan. 21st; Christian McBride's The Movement Revisited, Feb. 2nd; Ax, Kavakos & Ma, Feb. 3rd; Helene Grimaud, Feb. 4th; Seong-Jin Cho Plays Beethoven, Feb. 8th - 1th and Sheku Kanneh-Mason Plays Elgar, Feb. 15th - 18th.

For more information, visit cso.org or call (312) 294-3000.

New Laws Benefit Public Health

E-cigarette use is no longer permitted in indoor public spaces in Illinois, under a new state law signed by Gov. JB Pritzker. The Illinois Department of Public Health supports the intent of the new law, one of several taking effect in the New Year that will improve public health.

HB1540, sponsored in the House by Rep. Camille Lilly and in the Senate by Sen. Julie Morrison, adds electronic smoking devices to the list of items prohibited for public indoor use under the Smoke Free Illinois Act, the indoor smoking ban that was enacted in 2008. When the new law takes effect January 1, such devices can no longer be used in indoor public spaces or within 15 feet of a public entrance.

Bars, restaurants, and other retail establishments can get more information on the requirements of the updated law, and can download signage for their establishments, at <http://www.smokefree.illinois.gov/>. Consumers can use that same website to register complaints if they witness non-compliance with the indoor smoking/vaping ban.

Other new laws effective on New Year's Day include: HB2238, sponsored by Rep. Barbara Hernandez and Sen. Laura Ellman, which cre-

ates a new level of certification for hospitals providing treatment to stroke victims. The new category, identified as Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center, Thrombectomy Ready Stroke Center, or Primary Stroke Center Plus, is a voluntary designation that can be sought by medical facilities which offer a higher level of treatment and intervention for stroke patients;

HB3203, sponsored by Rep. Tony McCombie and Sen. Sally Turner, seeks to reduce the number of fentanyl-related overdoses by expanding access to fentanyl test strips that will allow controlled substances to be tested for the presence of the dangerous opioid. The new law will allow pharmacists and retailers to sell the strips, and allows county health departments to provide the test strips free of charge;

HB1117, sponsored by Rep. Natalie Manley and Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel, which will increase the number and capacity of hospice residence facilities providing end-of-life care to patients;

SB0759, sponsored by Sen. Julie Morrison and Rep. Theresa Mah, allowing podiatrists with the appropriate training to administer certain vaccinations to patients age 18 and older, including influenza, tetanus, and COVID-19 shots.

Holiday Lights At Lincoln Park Zoo



Photo provided by Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo's annual ZooLights presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ returns for its 29th year, through Jan. 7th. This much-anticipated holiday celebration will delight guests of all ages with beloved attractions, plus a selection of new experiences inspiring even more festive cheer!

This year features a dazzling array of new LED light displays, a never-before-seen garden-themed light show on the South Lawn, festive photo ops, costumed characters and Victorian carolers on select nights.

Returning this year is the twinkling Light Maze, the towering Ferris Wheel, ice carvers and light tunnel on the Main Mall.

Ticket sales support the zoo's animal care, global conservation efforts, learning programs and help keep the zoo free to the public.

General admission is free on Mondays.

ZooLights runs from 4:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday and Sunday; 4:30 to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

To learn more, visit lpzoo.org.

McKinley Library Schedules Programs

The McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th st. has scheduled interesting and informative programs.

Little Learners Story Time will be held on Fridays, Jan. 5th to Feb. 23rd from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Children 0 to 5 and their caregivers will join Ms. Katie for songs and stories.

Baby and Toddler Play Group will meet on Thursdays, Jan. 4th and Feb. 1st from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Mental Health First Aid in Spanish will be offered on Saturdays, Jan. 6th & 20th and Feb. 3rd from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants will learn: an action plan for an emotional crisis and self-coping skills for depression,

stress and anxiety. Winter Science will feature STEM challenges for ages 5 & up on Wednesday, Jan. 24th from 4 to 4:45 p.m.

Family Crafts for kids 3 and up and their caregivers will be available on Thursday, Jan. 18th from 4 to 4:30 p.m.

Visit chicagopubliclibrary.org to register.

Mexican Museum Offers Programs

The National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th st. has scheduled a wide range of programs.

Reservations for docent-led tours of Dia de Muertos exhibition can be made on the website via online form.

Loyola University Chicago is interested in understanding more about children's learning and improving the academic success by participating in two 45-60 minute conversations with a family of children ages 3.5 Families will receive \$45 and a small gift. Email cmaldonado1@luc.edu for more information.

Carlos Cortez 100 ANOS, in the Rubin & Paula Torres Gallery, Salvador Jimenez-Flores: eagle, serpiente, nopalli in the Chicago Gallery. *Nuestr Historias: Stories of Mexican Identity* from the Permanent Collection through Feb. 4th.

Registration is required, email angela@nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org.

Silver Skates Event At McKinley Park



Photo provided by the Chicago Park District

The Chicago Park District will conduct the Annual Silver Skates Speed Skating Competition for ages 6 & up at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Wednesday, Jan. 10th from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. Adult skaters are invited to an 18 & over meet immediately following the children's meet. Participants must wear gloves, long sleeves, and a bicycle or hockey helmet to participate. Figure skates, hockey skates, or speed skates will be available free of charge.

Registration will be taken from the first-served basis to the first 20 participants from each age group and gender.

Register online at <https://endurancecui.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=88309512>. Participants under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian register them.

State Assistance For Utility Bills

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is encouraging all income-eligible families to apply for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to support with utility bill assistance for natural gas, propane and electricity.

Income-eligible families can apply by visiting helpillinoisfamilies.com or by calling 1-833-711-0374 for assistance in 30 languages.

All families who meet the qualifications and provide proper documentation will receive support until funding is exhausted. Families who earn up to 200% the federal poverty level are now eligible to receive support through LIHEAP.

Eligible households are a 30-day gross income of \$2,430 for one person; \$3,287 for two; \$4,143 for three and \$856 for each additional person.

Applications will be accepted through August

15, 2024, or until funds are exhausted.

Additional programs for eligible families include: One-Time Direct Vendor Payment, Crisis/Reconnection Assistance, Furnace Assistance and Home Weatherization Program.

Walking Club For Seniors

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct a free Senior Walking Club at Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th & Western on Wednesdays through Jan. 31st from 8 to 9 a.m.

Participants will meet and mingle with those who have a shared interest in health, wellness and the outdoors. For more information, contact (312) 415-2970.



Rent In The 'Burbs!

We invite you to visit this quiet residential community located near the forest preserves in Palos Hills. Scenic Tree is convenient to shopping and dining at Orland Park and Chicago Ridge, excellent school district, Moraine Valley Community College and Midway Airport.

- Free Heat
- Private Patio or Balcony
- Intercom Entry
- Ceiling Fans
- Window Treatments
- Large Walk-in Closets in 2 bedrooms
- Spacious Apartments with Separate Dining Area
- 24-hour Emergency Maintenance
- Laundry Facilities in every Building
- Ample Parking

One bedrooms starting at \$1,176 month
Two bedrooms starting at \$1,284 month



(833) 373-0161

10205 S. 86th Terrace #210, Palos Hills
Email: stleasing@mathenrs.com

www.scenictreeapts.com

apply online!

PALERMO'S

of 63rd Street est. 1961

PIZZA | CATERING | RESTAURANT

Celebrating over 60 years

pick-up • delivery • dine-in thin crust • deep dish • stuffed

CHICAGO 3751 W. 63rd St. 773.585.5002	FRANKFORT 21014 S. La Grange Rd. 815.464.5300	MERRILLVILLE-HOBART 2893 E. 81st Ave. 219.940.3599
PALERMOSOF63RD.COM		

Pick-Up or Delivery \$150 Off Any Palermo's Lrg. Pizza or Free 1 Liter RC •Thin •Deep Dish •Stuffed Good at Chicago or Frankfort Limit one coupon per order. Exp. 1/31/25.	Pick-Up or Delivery \$250 Off Any Palermo's Ex. Lrg. Pizza or Free 2 Liter RC •Thin •Deep Dish •Stuffed Good at Chicago or Frankfort Limit one coupon per order. Exp. 1/31/25.
--	--

Carry-Out Only

Catering Package 30 people minimum or by the tray for any amount of people. Call for details.	Starting At \$695 person
---	---------------------------------------

Not valid with any other offer. Exp. 1/31/25