



Curriculum



By Dr. R. Pletsch

serves your district and has been adopted by the Board. While other schools could have three Algebra I classes and all being taught with different objectives.

The problem is deciding who writes the curriculum or who you purchase it from. I have written curriculum over the years. Some alone, and others on a committee often before a State visit for accreditation. The various book companies often use people who they consider having excellent credentials. But I have not seen any of them in the companies I dealt with considering how good a teacher you are.

The different Social Studies seem based on the politics of the day. The Sciences and Math are chosen by credentials but in these subjects, you can teach 7th grade without having a lot of advanced classes. Sometimes those in advanced classes can help the high school students, but those extra classes would be unnecessary. Anyone that really thinks that your 7th grade teacher needs calculus to teach in the elementary school, but maybe helpful for those teaching elective Math curriculum.

If you find your child or classroom that you believe the course work to be too hard or too easy, bring it up to the administration. You may have it explained or maybe changed. It could help all the children in the school.

School curriculum varies greatly state to state, local school board to local school board, and often varies between neighborhood schools. What makes the difference and what is being taught? The control of the curriculum varies from very strictly enforced to not at all. It depends on local authorities and their bylaws. I have worked in districts where the teachers are given a great deal of flexibility and others where the principals scoured over lesson plans to be sure they are teaching what your plans say and you are following the prescribed curriculum. The principal then visited and compared the plans to what was actually occurring that day in class.

Some of the curriculum is set by the text that

Solar Eclipse In Illinois



Preparations are underway to host thousands of visitors in Illinois for the April 8th, total solar eclipse that will pass over much of the southern third of the state.

Staff from multiple state agencies – including the Illinois Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, State Police, Conservation Police, Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security, Office of Tourism, and Department of Public Health – have worked for more than a year to ensure a safe and successful experience for the influx of eclipse watchers.

Southern Illinois is in the path of totality for the second time since Aug. 21, 2017, making it the eclipse crossroads of America. Carbondale and Southern Illinois University are on the centerline of the path of totality and will see 4 minutes and 9 seconds of totality.

SIU is hosting numerous educational and enrichment events during the four days of the eclipse weekend, culminating with a public viewing at the football stadium.

The Illinois Office of Tourism and Department of Natural Resources have published websites to provide helpful information for eclipse viewers. The sites include frequently asked questions, a map of the path of totality, viewing times for the eclipse at state parks, and other sites and activities to take in during a visit to southern Illinois.

Referendums On March 19th Election

This election season, voters throughout Cook County will decide whether to repair aging schools, improve a lake front beach, shut down a fire department and give local politicians new powers to tax.

If history is any guide, only a sliver of the electorate will decide the outcomes of those key ballot questions known as referendums.

An average of less than one out of every three registered voters determined the fate of 75 property tax-related referendums from 2020 to 2023 in Cook County, an analysis by the office of Treasurer Maria Pappas found.

In fact, turnout has been so poor that the fate of nearly half of those referendums was decided by less than 25% of all voters.

“Voters are given the power to make these key decisions, but most don’t bother to vote,” Pappas said. “And when their taxes go up, they are the first to complain.”

When voters stay home, they allow a small group of motivated voters to hold sway over decisions that impact their wallets.

The analysis, titled “The Few Decide for the Many,” found that seven out of 10 referendums

Open Studios At Bridgeport Art Ctr.



The Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th st. will conduct 3rd Fridays Open Studio on March 15th 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.

The Chicago Ceramic Center is conducting pottery classes and hand-building workshops.

The Illinois High School Art Exhibitions will be on display March 15th to April 21st. Over 100 city, suburban, public and private high schools from across the state will participate.

Artists are invited to participate in the 12th Annual Juried Art Competition that will be on display from May 17th to July 5th. Work must have been completed within 2021-2024 in a broad range of media and styles. Not eligible are functional pottery, jewelry, clothing, accessories, furniture, functional art, time-art such as video, sound, or film. Deadline is Wednesday, March 27th. Application fee is \$35. Prizes are \$3,000 - Best of Show, \$1,500 - 2nd prize, \$750 3rd prize and \$500 - People's Choice Award.

Register at bridgeportart.com

Provided by Bridgeport Art Center

State's Vehicle Show Set for Sept. 7th



The Illinois Secretary of State's office is highlighting the 60th Anniversary of the iconic 1964 Ford Mustang during its annual Vehicle Show in Springfield on Saturday, Sept. 7th, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A limited number of commemorative license plates featuring the Mustang and promoting the Vehicle Show are available for \$32 pair until May 10th.

Illinois vehicle owners who purchase the plates may display them on their vehicles for up to 60 days before the show from July 10th to Sept. 7th.

The Illinois State Champion Award will be given by the show's advisory committee. First-, second- and third-place winners will also receive awards in at least 60

classes.

Ford began manufacturing the Mustang in March 1964, creating a new class of automobiles known as pony cars. The styling proved popular and inspired other manufacturers to copy its look.

First held in 1949 as an Antique Auto Meet, the Secretary of State's Vehicle Show features some of Illinois' finest antique and classic vehicles, sports cars, motorcycles, trucks and tractors.

Last year's event attracted more than 1,000 visitors with more than 600 drivers purchasing specialty plates.

For more information or for a brochure, including a Vehicle Show Registration Form, call 312-793-8876 or email vehicleshow@ilsos.gov.

The plate order form and the show's schedule is available at http://www.ilsos.gov/services/vehicle_show/home.html.

Seniors Club At Archer Park

Archer Park, 4901 S. Kilbourn is operating a senior citizens club on Wednesdays and Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. through March 22nd. Participants will enjoy quality time in group participation activities such as bingo, card playing, board games and more.

Register at chicago.parkdistrict.com

MPCA Schedules Awards Dinner

The McKinley Park Civic Association will hold its Awards dinner at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, 3745 S. Paulina on Sunday, April 21st at 3 p.m. The following teachers will be honored: Gina Burrows of Greene School, Mayra Jimenez of Namaste Charter School, Jinhua Lai-Bao of Evergreen Academy Middle School, Olivia Medina of Blessed Sacrament Parish Religious Ed, and Joellen Zielazinski of Thomas Kelly College Prep.

Justin Kerr and Dr. Roy J. Pletsch will receive the William H. G. Toms Community Service Award. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children ages 4-11. Children age 3 and under are free, but need a ticket. Contact Sue Pletsch at (773) 847-0261 by March 25th.

Pollinator Garden Registry Board

Mayor Brandon Johnson, announces the City's first Native and Pollinator Garden Registry Advisory Board that is tasked with creating a native and pollinator garden registry, developing criteria for applications, and reviewing and providing recommendations to the Commissioner of Streets and Sanitation, who will oversee and maintain the registry.

Members were selected based on recommendations from DSS, the Chicago Departments of Environment, Transportation and Planning and Development, the Mayor's Office, and 2nd Ward Alderman Brian Hopkins, lead sponsor of the ordinance. The appointees come to the Board with technical expertise and knowledge on gardening and native plant species.

“This registry will allow for residents who have purposefully landscaped native plantings on their properties to do so without the threat of being ticketed by the City,” said Alderman Hopkins.

The Board will go into effect immediately with an initial meeting anticipated in April. Members will serve in staggered four-year terms, with half of the initial board serving two-year terms.

Spring Flower Show At Lincoln Conservatory



The “Sweet Gnome Chicago” Spring Flower Show at the Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton dr. combines flowers and fun to celebrate all that is Spring through May 12. Nearly 300 gnomes of many sizes and materials will hang out in the display houses, with a focus on the Show House. Vignettes of the whimsical creatures are set amongst spring flowering shrubs, perennials, annuals, and bulbs. Visitors can enjoy Foxy Foxrott Tulips, Garden Party Lilies and Blueberry Thrill Violas. Reservations are required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/lincoln-park-conservancy-17342067619>.

Symphony Center Schedules Concerts

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

Sprach Zarathustra, March 14th - 16th; Mahler Chamber Orchestra & Mitsuko Uchida, March 26th; The Music of Bach, March 28th - April 2nd; Herbie Hancock, March 30th; Klaus Makela & Yuja Wang, April 4th - 6th and Yefim Bronfman, April 14th, Mahler 4, April 21st - 24th; CSO xJazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, April 25th - 27th; Sheherazade, May 2nd - 4th; Montgomey & Bruckner 7, May 30th -

Chinese American Women History



Herstory 1& 2 by Chang C. Chen, opens a new window / Copyright Chang C. Chen / Cropped from original

Exhibit *Herstory: The Legal History of Chinese American Women* is open at the Chinatown Branch Library, 2100 S. Wentworth through March 31st, in celebration of Women's History Month. Curated by author and legal scholar Chang C. Chen, *Herstory* illustrates the struggle for Chinese women to attain citizenship, dignity and recognition under the law.

The first Chinese women began arriving in the United States in 1785 as domestic workers and merchants' brides. Over

MyCHI My Future Grant Program

The Department of Family and Support Services announced the City of Chicago's My CHI. My Future. Micro-Grant Program. SGA Youth and Family Services will administer the program to make small grants available to community-based, youth-serving organizations that are creating new or enhancing existing opportunities for positive youth engagement in specified Community Strategy Regions including Brighton Park.

In total, \$600,000 will be distributed in micro-grants across the 15 Community Strategy Regions with \$40,000 designated for each Region. Applicants can request between \$2,500 to \$10,000 for programming that serves youth during out-of-school time.

The programs must serve youth ages six to 24 years old and at least 50% of these populations: Individuals with disabilities, Options High Schools, English as a Second Language learners, experiencing homelessness, in the foster care system, justice involved, out of school and out of work.

The grant application deadline to apply is April 12th. Interested applicants can visit sga.youth.org/micro-grants/ to learn more.

Dean's List At Illinois Wesleyan

Illinois Wesleyan University's Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year consisted of 752 students from 33 states and 30 countries.

To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.50 or better during the semester, based on 4.0 for straight As.

Local scholars are: Narda Preciado, Teresa Czerwiec, Abby Quinn and Christian Mei of 60638, Hardy Johnson of 60609.

Town Hall Meeting At Marquette Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Strategic Town Hall Meeting at Marquette Park, 6234 S. Kedzie on Wednesday, March 20th from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Park District will present on the progress of the strategic plan, and then attendees will have an opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions. No prior registration is required. Speakers will be asked to register upon arrival.

Marquette U. Names Graduates

Marquette University of Milwaukee, Wisconsin awarded Bachelor of Science degrees in Elementary/Middle Education to Catherine Sajdak and Justyn Spann of Chicago.

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and the Illinois Department of Public Health is urging everyone to learn more about the illness and the need for regular screenings.

Colorectal cancer has a five-year survival rate of around 90% when detected early, but that survival rate falls to just 10% when the cancer is not detected in a timely fashion and spreads to other parts of the body. Regular screenings can spot early warning signs and also allow for cancer to be spotted in its earliest stages, when treatment has the best chance of success.

In 2023, 6,200 new cases of colorectal cancer were diagnosed in Illinois, and more than 2,100 people lost their lives to the illness last year. Incidences of colorectal cancer are higher among Black, non-Hispanic males and females.

There are various tests that can detect signs of colorectal cancer. They include: colonoscopy, which can detect cancer but can also detect suspicious-looking polyps before they develop into cancer. Sigmoidoscopy, which is similar to a colonoscopy, but less invasive as it only looks at the lower part of the colon (a colonoscopy looks at the entire large intestine). Fecal occult blood test and fecal immunochemical test, which detect the presence of blood in the stool. A stool DNA test (often known by the brand name Cologuard). This is not a preventive tool, but it can detect the presence of blood and abnormal DNA

Open Meeting On Riverfront Design

A public program to Design the Riverfront from Ping Tom Park to Western ave. will be held on Friday, March 15th at Tu Casa Guanajuato, 3661 S. Archer.

A 6 p.m. dinner will be provided plus drinks from Marz Brewing from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., the program and activities will follow.

Residents from McKinley Park, Chinatown, Brighton Park, Pilsen and Bridgeport are all invited to collaborate on what the riverfront should look like.

Children are welcome, activities will be available for all ages.

Sponsors include: CBCAC, Bridgeport Alliance, McKinley Park Development Council and Living Habitats.

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 editorialists may not represent the viewpoints held by the publisher of the Brighton Park - McKinley Park Life Newspaper.

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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, March 22nd and 29th from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Children 0 to 5 and their caregivers will join Ms. Katie for songs and stories.

A film screening of "Woman King" (2022) is scheduled for Friday, March 22nd from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Suitable for age 18 & up. In the late eighteenth century, the Kingdom of Dahomey flourished as one of Africa's most powerful empires. Yet as European merchants encroached, seeking riches at the expense of its people, warrior Nansaka takes a stand to uphold her peoples' freedom, inspired by true events.

Group Games will be played on Saturday, March 23rd from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Board, card and party games will be available.

A film screening of "Triangle Fire" (2011) is scheduled for Sunday, March 24th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Near closing

time on Saturday afternoon, March 25th, 1911, a fire broke out in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York's Greenwich Village. 146 of the 500 employees had died. Many of the employees were women, some as young as 14 years old.

Ages 5 and up will take on different STEAM challenges related to the science of weather on Wednesday, March 27th from 4 to 4:45 p.m.

Crafts to welcome Spring with Fiona Cook, author of "The Wheel of the Year" will be held on Tuesday, March 26th from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Ages 5 and up and their caregivers are invited to learn about the spring equinox and complete themed crafts.

Visit chicagopubliclibrary.org to register.

Egg Hunt At West Lawn Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct an Egg Hunt for ages 3 through 12 at West Lawn Park, 4233 W. 65th st. on Saturday, March 23rd from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chicago Ramps Up Pothole Patching



The Chicago Department of Transportation announced progress in maintaining streets this winter, with over 143,000 potholes filled so far in 2024. Operating seven days a week with up to 25 crews, CDOT has been able to quickly respond to 311 requests and proactively fill thousands of potholes per day. This approach, combined with the mild winter weather, will allow city crews to turn their attention to other roadway maintenance and improvement needs earlier in the spring.

Potholes are caused by the freeze-thaw cycle. When moisture seeps into pavement, it expands when it freezes and contracts when it thaws. This flexing of the pavement, combined with the melted water and the stress of vehicular traffic, causes pavement to deteriorate and potholes to form. February was a particularly productive month, with CDOT filling more than 93,000 potholes in streets and alleyways.

CDOT is targeting approximately 150 miles of streets and alleys to be resurfaced in 2024. This resurfacing improves the quality and lifespan of streets and reduces the need for pothole repairs.

Residents can report potholes through one of the following methods: Using the website 311.chicago.gov, CHI311 mobile app, or calling 311.

Registration For Sundays On State

Chicago Loop Alliance announces dates for the return of the award-winning event series, Sundays on State, which will close parts of State street to vehicle traffic on June 16th and July 14th from Lake to Adams.

The events are free and open to the public. Those who register to attend are entered for a chance to win a \$1,000 Loop staycation package. Learn more and register at <https://loopchicago.com/events/sundays-on-state>.

Lakefront Loop 5K At Navy Pier

Navy Pier's annual Lakefront Loop 5k will be staged on Sunday, May 5th at 7:30 p.m. This year's event will include a Kids Dash, timed 5k with age group awards, and post-race treats. Sign up now for Early Bird pricing through March 15th. Visit navypier.org.

Ridge Library Plans Programs

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

An Adult Book Discussion of "The Splendid and the Vile" by Erik Larson will be held on March 14th at 6 p.m. "The Five Wounds" by Kristin Valdez Quade is scheduled for April 11th at 6 p.m.

Time for Tots Story time for ages 15 to 36 months and a caregiver is available on Mondays, through March 25th from 10:30 to 11:15 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 Wednesday, March 27th from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Early arrivals can build puzzles. Free play follows each session. Children learn to share and socialize with their peers.

Chess for ages 6 to 13 will be played Wednesdays through March 27th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Play different opponents to improve your skills.

Games People Play for adults will be enjoyed on Thursdays through March 28th from 2 to 4 p.m. Bring your own games or use ours. Light refreshments will be served.

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. Knit Wits: Crochet Circle will meet on Saturdays through March 23rd from 2 to 4 p.m. Bring your projects to share or to help others finish. This is a meet up-not a tutorial- it's to have fun and talk.

UChicago Plans Jazz Concerts

The Jazz Institute of Chicago partner organizations, UChicago Presents have scheduled a concert series Jazz At Logan Center, 916 E. 60th st.

Free pre-school concerts by JJC Students Council alumni and other young rising stars will be performed in Cafe Logan.

The schedule includes 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.

The Spanish Book Club meets on the first Thursday of each month from 1 to 2 p.m.

Spring Crafts for ages 5 to 13 will be featured Monday, March 25th from 1 to 2 p.m.

UNO and other games for ages 5 to 13 will be played on Tuesday, March 26th from 1 to 2 p.m.

Play Time for ages 15 months to 4 years are offered on Wednesday, March 20th at 10:30 a.m. Trains, cars, trucks, puzzles, toy kitchen, dolls, Bingo dabbers, blocks and more are available for your toddler to socialize and make friends.

Play Day for ages 15 months to 4 years will be enjoyed on Saturdays, March 16th and April 16th at 11 a.m. Children can play with our toy kitchen, cars, blocks, Bingo dabbers, Duplos and more.

Bunny Tales for ages 18 months to 4 years is set for Saturday, March 23rd, 10:30 a.m. An Easter Bunny craft and lots of coloring sheets will be available.

LEGO Free build for ages 5 to 10 will be performed on Wednesday, March 27th at 12 p.m.

Spring Story Time for ages 4 to 6 will listen to stories and sing songs on Thursday, March 28th at 12:30 p.m.

Senior Saturday will be held on April 13th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. will feature live music with "Bud & Marge" (from the 70s 'til now). Refreshments will be served.

A Planner Meet Up for adults and seniors will be held Saturday, April 27th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your own journal/planner, stickers, wash tape and gel pens.

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

Women Of Jazz At Garfield Park

The Jazz Institute of Chicago will present a free performance of the Marlene Rosenberg Quintet at the Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park ave. on Friday, March 22nd from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Quartet members are Marlene Rosenberg-bass, Lara Driscoll-piano, Camila Mennitte Pereyra-drums and Gabriel Wade-trumpet.

The opening act will feature the Jazz Liniks Ensemble led by McKinley Huffman and Victoria Flores. For information, visit jazzinchicago.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, May 2nd. 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.

Obituaries



OCTAVIA GALARZA who was born on March 16th, 1961, passed away on March 2nd at the age of 62. Visitation was held March 11th at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave.; Jonathan Siedlecki, Owner-Director.



ISABEL HERRERA who was born on Oct. 29th, 1932, passed away on March 7th at the age of 91. Visitation was held March 12th at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave.; Jonathan Siedlecki, Owner - Director. Interment was at St. Casimir Cemetery, 4401 W. 111th st.



AIDA DE LA LUZ GOMEZ (nee Garza) passed away on March 6th at the age of 78. Born on Feb. 1st, 1946, in Monterrey, Mexico, she was the daughter of Manuela (Leal) & Francisco Garza. She married Daniel Gomez on Feb. 2nd, 1980, and raised three children Zaida, Daniel, and Victoria (David). Other survivors are siblings Angelica and Frank and granddaughter Lyanna. Visitation will be held Friday, March 15th from 4 to 8 p.m. at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave.; Jonathan Siedlecki, Owner-Director. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Holy Cross Church, 1740 W. 46th st. on Saturday, March 16th at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery, 87th & Hamlin, Evergreen Park.

IRS Provides Saturday Hours

The Internal Revenue Service will open the Chicago Taxpayer Assistance Center, 230 S. Dearborn st. on Saturday, March 16th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., to provide in-person help.

Special Saturday openings for April 13th and May 18th at various locations across the country, with many locations also having expanded hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

People can make payments by check or money order, get help with identity authentication and ask about account adjustments.

Visit the Saturday hours at <https://www.irs.gov/help/irs-face-to-face-saturday-help> to get current information.

Normally, the centers are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and provide service by appointment. To make an appointment during regular hours, call 844-545-5640.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, loved, adored and cherished throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude, Helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer for 9 times a day for 9 days. Your prayer will be answered. Thank you, Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. Jude. ALO

ASM Schedules Sneaker Ball

After School Matters will sponsor its Sneaker Ball at the Chicago Sports Museum on Saturday, April 13th at 7 p.m. The event will feature raffle prizes, teen talent and more. Visit afterschool-matters.org.

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| <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 10:30 AM in English Weekday Schedule Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass March 17, 2024</p> |
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St. Barbara: 312-842-7979 St. Therese: 312-842-6777 School 312-326-2837

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Friday, March 15, 7PM, at St. Therese

Family Mass this Sunday,
March 17, 10:30 AM, at St. Therese

"Born To Lead... Ready to Serve"

Joseph Mercado #72, Candidate for State Representative of the 23rd District, sets his standards high. Many of you know him as "Joe Mercado". Born and raised in Brighton Park, his continued years of service to all residents have extended beyond his immediate community. Joseph Mercado is no stranger to getting involved with hands-on labor or engaging in business interactions. He is a Proud Union Member, who recognizes the strengths for success. He is a Graduate of Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School (Class of 2016); He was a Lead Altar Servant and later joined The Holy Name Society of Jesus for Five Holy Martyrs Church. He continued his educational journey at St. Ignatius College Preparatory and is a graduate of the 2020 Class. Upon graduation, Joseph Mercado enrolled at St. Xavier University to study Nursing. His life history has been an inspiration for the many he has come across. At 12 years of age, he took on the challenge of servicing his community by becoming a volunteer precinct captain. He experienced positive reinforcement from residents who welcomed his energetic performance to service their needs. With his help across the 23rd District, hundreds of community service requests were processed. Later becoming an aldermanic intern where he had the experience of seeing the Brighton Park Community Campus at 4830 S. Western begin construction. Joseph Mercado is an advocate for Safety and has focused on keeping our Youth Safe from the violence that plagues neighborhoods. He is the Creator and Founder of Cub Scout Pack #1221 located at Nathan S. Davis Elementary School. His dedication and commitment to the program is to ensure that all children can have an opportunity to learn and overcome life challenges. Joseph Mercado is an Eagle Scout with over 3,000 service hours accredited to him on his war memorial for veterans. While also as a youth, he earned all 137 Merit Badges offered by the Boy Scouts of America. He was inducted into The Order of the Arrow and was elected to numerous Leadership positions promoting services in Brighton Park, Little Village, McKinley Park, Back of the Yards, and Gage Park Communities. Those opportunities and extensive training have prepared him for the challenges the community needs to address. Most recently, he held a session at St. Agnes in Little Village to assist the Boy Scouts who needed to complete several Merit Badges. As the future of our District is fast approaching, Come and Join Joseph Mercado #72 as he writes the next chapter of his life as you Vote on March 19, 2024. Joseph Mercado #72, State Representative 23rd District. Together we will change the future for a better tomorrow with the candidate that was Born to Lead and Ready to Serve!

Vote on March 19th, #72
for State Representative 23rd District

Chicago Working Families'

Archer Avenue St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday, March 16, 2024

Step Off: 12:00 Noon

Route: Archer Avenue east from Oak Park to Narragansett

Honorary Grand Marshal
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Chicago Police Department
End of Watch: Wednesday, March 1, 2023

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Craft Brews At Lincoln Park Zoo



Photo provided by Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo will conduct a Craft Brew Party after hours on Saturday, June 15th. The cost is \$55, general admission and \$65 early admission.

Take a leisurely stroll through zoo gardens and explore tasting stations featuring a diverse selection of craft brews and ciders. Purchase bites from food trucks, vibe to

live music, and view your favorite animal.

Tickets include: Twenty 3-ounce tastings, one souvenir Craft Brews glass, opportunities to chat with representatives from 40+ breweries, after-hours access to the zoo, yard games, live band playing all night and food for purchase.

Buy tickets at events@lpzoo.org.

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 March 21st 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.

Maker Mondays for ages 13 to 19 will be offered on March 25th through May 20th from 4 to 5 p.m. Spend an hour each week working on a fun art project. Materials will be provided.

Sit 'n' Stitch: Crochet and knitting Club for ages 13 to 19 will be held Thursdays, March 21st, April 18th and May 16th from 4 to 5 p.m. Learn new patterns or swap supplies. Bring your own materials, as supplies may be limited.

Technology Help for adults is available on Mondays through April 29th from 1 to 2 p.m. Examples of help provided include: navigating the Internet or setting up an email. Help formatting a Word document. Downloading eBooks or eMagazines in library apps: hoppla or Libby. Accessing job resources such as Chicago DigitalLearn, LinkedIn Learning, or Brainfuse.

Gaming Club for teens will include video, card and board games on Thursdays, April 25th and May 23rd from 4 to 5 p.m.

An Adult Book Discussion of "Invisible Child" by Andrea Elliot is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th at 1 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Copies are available for checkout at the circulation desk.

An Adult Social is held Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. to engage in activities like doodling, coloring, crosswords or a board game.

LEGO Club for ages 6 to 13 will be held Wednesday, March 20th from 5 to 6 p.m. Compete in new and fun challenges.

Watercoloring Painting for ages 3 & up is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th from 4 to 5 p.m. Have fun exploring different techniques to create your work of art.

Avoiding Home Repair Scams will be explained on Monday, March 25th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. One out of five complaints received at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General involves disputes between homeowners and home repair contractors. Bring your questions, the presentation will be in English and Spanish.

For more information, visit chipublib.org.

Outdoor Adventures At Morton Arboretum



Photo provided by Morton Arboretum

The Morton Arboretum of Lisle invites all to take a walk while immersing in the beauty of the great outdoors, absorb the fresh air, the serene sounds of nature, and look for signs of spring.

Explore the numerous classes that focus on how to take care of flowers, get started on gardening, or how to grow great tomatoes. Visit the Plant Clinic's page to explore other ways to take care of your flowers or plants year round.

Looking to keep your little ones busy during spring break? Make the outdoors their laboratory during a five-day Spring Science Camp from Monday, March 25th to Friday, March 29th.

For more information, visit mortonarb.org.

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, May 2nd. 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.

Ladder Up will provide free tax return filing to low income on Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through April 13th.

Teen Hideaway for ages 13 to 19 will be held on Thursdays through March 28th from 4 to 6 p.m. and Tuesdays through March 26th from 4 to 6 p.m. Design and create with our 3D Printer, button maker, vinyl cutter, play video or board games.

Preschool Story Time for children up to kindergarten and their families will be held on Wednesdays through April 24th 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.

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

Middle Ground for grades 6 to 8 is offered on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. through April 30th. Play video games on Nintendo Switch, make crafts or art and hang out after school. Earn service hours for attendance.

Workshops with Brighton Park Poets will be held on Sunday, March 17th from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The community-based organization hosts a generative poetry workshop 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 to 7 p.m. for stories, songs and other fun activities.

A Graphic Novel and Manga Book Discussion is scheduled for Thursday, March 21st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Topics are "Dead Romans" by Fred Kennedy and "the 3rd volume of 'Akira'" by Katsuhiro Otomo.

An Adult Book Discussion will feature the classic "Daisy Jones & the Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid on Friday, March 15th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. This event is available in person and online.

LEGO and DUPLO Club will meet on Thursday, March 21st from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Build your own design or try out a design challenge. Work on your own or as a team. We supply the bricks and you supply the imagination. For families with children 3 years and up. Children in grades 3 to 8 are encouraged to attend STEM Agent Academy which runs at the same time.

Visit chicagopubliclibrary.org to register.

Openlands Supports Treekeepers Programs

The Spring 2024 Treekeepers Course will be held at Gwendolyn Brooks Library at Chicago State University, 9501 S. King Drive, April 7th through May 1st.

Registration is open now.

For a refresher on the Openlands and TreeKeepers way of tree planting, join us for our Spring Warmup planting at North Park Village Nature Center on Wednesday, April 3rd (registration link below). This event will be specifically for TreeKeepers who want to get involved with community planting projects.

The schedule includes: Class 1: Sunday, April 7th, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Class 2: Sunday, April 14th, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Class 3: Wednesday, April 17th, 6 - 8:15 p.m. (remote). Class 4: Sunday, April 21st, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Pruning Day). Class 5: Wednesday, April 24th, 6 - 8:15 p.m. (Remote). Class 6: Saturday, April 27th, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Planting Day). Class 7: Sunday, April 28th, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Class 8: Wednesday, May 1st, 6 p.m. (Remote; Final exam). Remote classes will be done via Zoom. Register at treekeepers@openlands.org.

Grant Park Pruning Workday, SW corner of Ida B. Wells and Columbus drives, Monday, March 18th, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Jackson Park Pruning Workday, Hayes Drive and DuSable Lake Shore drive, Thursday, March 21st, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. 47th Ward Street Tree Inventory Workday, Saturday, March 23rd, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Marquette

Park Pruning Workday, 6743 S. Kedzie Ave, Tuesday, March 26, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. 1st Ward Pruning Workday, Logan Blvd at Campbell, Wednesday March 27th, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Pole Saw Pruning Training, 750 E. Oakwood Blvd., Tuesday, April 2nd, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For over 30 years, Friends of the Parks has coordinated park clean ups across Chicago as part of our annual Earth Day Celebration in partnership with the Chicago Park District and Forest Preserves of Cook County. This year's event is Saturday, April 20th. Park Advisory Councils, park partner organizations and other volunteer groups will be provided with gloves and garbage bags as well as an online event sign-up.

For more information, visit openlands.org.

Plant Sale Benefits Birds

The Chicago Bird Alliance announces the start of its annual Native Plant Sale that provides food and shelter to the bird and pollinator population as well as aesthetic beauty to our landscape.

The new selection includes: Blue Stemmed Goldenrod, Downy Sunflower, Pale Purple Cornflower, Columbus Strain RedBud (Tree), Dwarf bush Honeysuckle, and Nannyberry Viburnum.

The online sale is available at: <https://chicagobirdalliance.org/native-plant-sale-1> through April 19th.

Plant pick up is Sunday, May 26th from 1-3 p.m. at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N Pulaski road.

Persons who wish to volunteer with Plant Pick Up day sorting and fill orders, etc., may visit, <https://bit.ly/2024CBA-PlantSaleVolunteers>.

Women Veterans Employment Fair

The inaugural Women Veterans Town Hall, Resource and Employment Fair will be held at Malcolm X College Auditorium, 1900 W. Jackson Blvd. on Saturday, March 30th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Women veterans and current service members are invited to share stories of service and challenges with key stakeholders, decision-makers and supporting organizations.

Participants and guests will have the opportunity to meet with veteran and military service providers, as well as employers.

Lunch will be provided. Register at www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/veterans-affairs.

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. The next meeting is May 8th from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

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

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

Jam Sessions At Jazz Showcase

The Jazz Institute of Chicago will conduct Jam Sessions for students age 3 to 19 at the Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth court on Wednesdays, April 10th and May 8th from 5 to 7 p.m.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, visit JazzInChicago.org.

"THE KID"

Richard "Ricky" A. Mercado, Candidate for 12th Ward Committeeperson, will make sure you aren't ignored and will bring your seat to the table! Ricky has served his community and the faithful for many years. He is a true inspiration to people of all ages. He has new ideas and a fresh perception with a vision and a mission. The 12th Ward can no longer remain stagnant. As Ricky remarks, "We need Leaders who are willing to accept challenges and act in the best interest of the people." Under the leadership of Ricky, our community's voice will be brought back to the table by connecting with residents one-on-one, at local meetings, and the plethora of events concerning McKinley Park and Brighton Park. Ricky plans on organizing multiple voter registration drives as well as taking concerns to local officials for further continual development. Richard believes that inconsistent efforts have left both communities facing bigger concerns of safety and socioeconomic problems. "As we imagined our community's destiny in our local classrooms, never did I imagine our problems would balloon up in recent years. I knew it was my calling to go and serve now." Ricky is a graduate and Salutatorian of Pope John Paul II Catholic School, Class of 2020. As a youth, Ricky is among the youngest to earn Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America at the age of 12. Through his leadership, he has mentored other kids as well as local troops for a different outlook. Richard attends St. Ignatius College Preparatory and will continue his community efforts focusing on Medical Development as he attends college. Richard plans on addressing issues that have been quite ignored. As a community volunteer, Richard had spoken to many business, religious, and community leaders, neighbors, and friends about the challenges our communities face. One thing is clear, Ricky has been dubbed "The Kid" and he won't stop until the job is done!



Vote on March 19th, #171 for a New 12th Ward!



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