



How is Your School?



By Dr. R. Pletsch

We are undergoing a time of transformation, not only in the world but in our schools. We have come to a time when groups are legally taking "parents' rights" away. Many schools are known to have lost their parents' rights because some elected officials traded the rights away for other items and these items can vary, with many of these that may seem useful to other people. The range can be great like more street lights, or new roads or almost anything. We must watch our politicians, especially in Springfield.

What parents want is often not what they get. You may think of some politicians who don't vote the way you thought they would. They might not have lied, they just didn't pay attention. People want to be elected to the new Police Boards, School Boards, you name it and these jobs are exciting and important for our communities. I'm glad that many are interested, but when you look at credentials, decide if you want someone who has worked hard all their lives or has worked at home or if they are a com-

munity organizer or someone whose only credentials include working for other politicians. Also note who endorses them. It is highly likely that the candidate will vote like them.

Now many of us are interested in these things, but do you believe this candidate will represent your ideas and not the party line. When it comes time to vote again, party affiliation or the candidate's race or sex should be low on your list because you may get someone who does not vote the way you want. If things are not going well in your school, these jobs can be important but they can be strenuous. They can be almost any subject that might come up that you would have to be prepared about. Think of what really annoys you in your school. Does your school have explicit sex books for primary students, or bathrooms shared by male and female students? Recently there have been people that want all school buses to be electric, window air conditioners eliminated in classrooms and adding tougher science and math subjects to high school graduation requirements.

Remember that just because an issue may be new, doesn't mean it's good or bad. Who thought we would be worried about tent cities? There are so many possible subjects out there it is almost impossible to know what will be next. You should always be open to listen. You don't have to agree with the president, the governor, the mayor, the principal or me. But give us all a chance to speak. Teachers should not bring items that are against the law to be presented if it is not part of the curriculum. They carry too much weight in the minds of our youngsters. So parents get elected.

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. The Pepper Family Wildlife Center will transform into the North Pole, hosting visits with Santa.

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 ZooLights tickets are \$7

person. Tickets on Fridays, Saturdays, and New Year's Eve are \$10 person. General admission is free on Mondays.

ZooLights runs from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 4:30 to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. ZooLights will not be open Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

On free admission Mondays, all regular ZooLights hours and ticketed attractions, apply. Food and beverage is available for purchase. Tickets are required for all guests, including infants.

Special offerings include Sensory-Friendly Night on Wednesday, Dec. 6th; Family-friendly New Year's Eve with a special countdown every hour; Rides and Special Attractions.

Holiday events include: The Chris White Trio Tribute to A Charlie Brown Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 10th and Adults Night Out: Holiday on Thursday, Dec. 14th.

To learn more, visit lpzoo.org.

Park District Winter Programs

The Chicago Park District offers an array of low-cost programs for all ages, ability levels, and families that operate Jan. 8th to March 24th.

Online Registration accepted Monday, Dec. 4th at 9 a.m. for in-person programs at parks west of California ave. & for all Virtual Programs. Tuesday, Dec. 5th at 9 a.m. for in-person programs at parks east of California ave. Tuesday, Dec. 5th at noon for gymnastics centers

In-Person Registration is accepted Saturday, Dec. 9th or Monday, Dec. 11th, if spots remain after online registration.

Review the Registration Checklist to facilitate the online process.

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.

Park Kids After-school Program for ages 6 to 12 offers a variety of brain

play, nature, fitness, sports, and art activities, along with homework time. Financial assistance is available.

The Park District's gymnastic centers offer quality instruction for beginners to advanced competitors year-round.

Early Childhood (18 months-5 yrs.) features 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.) can enjoy boxing, basketball, dance, woodcraft, cheerleading, fitness options and more.

Teens can choose from a variety of programs including basketball, cultural offerings, fitness classes and clubs.

Adults and Seniors are offered cultural activities, fitness and wellness and Pickleball.

Special Recreation programs are offered for individuals with disabilities. Participants will enjoy crafts, cooking, fitness and social clubs.

Contact (312) 742-7529.

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.

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

Naughty or Nice 2+ After Hours Event: On Friday, Dec. 15th from 6 to 10 p.m. guests are invited to enjoy 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. Tickets cost \$35 and include free parking.

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

Photos with Santa and the Grand Tree: Fridays through Sundays between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the weeks leading up to Christmas and

everyday Dec. 15th-24th during the same hours. Guests can buy timed tickets to meet Santa on MSI's website. The same goes for photos in front of the Grand Tree in the rotunda.

Winter Break Camps: Students in 6th through 8th grades are invited to learn about winter science around the globe with Winter Break Camps. Inspired by *Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light*, these three-day camps-running Dec. 27th-29th and Jan. 3rd-5th offer hands-on STEAM activities run by MSI's Education team and a chance to explore the entire Museum.

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.

Parking Bans For Winter

In order to ensure that the most critical roadways are kept open to full capacity at all times, the City of Chicago instituted and vigorously enforces a Winter Overnight Parking Ban on 107 miles of arterial streets from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. between December 1st and April 1st, regardless of snow.

Motorists who ignore this permanently posted seasonal tow zone face a \$150 towing fee (minimum) in addition to a \$60 ticket and an initial \$25 daily storage fee.

A separate snow-related parking ban exists for another 500 miles of main streets and can be activated after there are at least two inches of snow on the street, no matter the time of day or calendar date. Motorists who are parked there when it snows could receive a ticket or have their vehicle relocated to facilitate snow clearing operations.

Vehicles in violation of the ban will be towed to

Pounds 2 (10301 S. Doty Ave) or 6 (701 N. Sacramento). Visit chicagoshovels.org or a map of streets impacted by the ban and to view the snow plows in real-time during a storm.

These parking bans were implemented on a designated arterial streets to prevent recurrences of problems that happened in 1967 and 1979 when Chicago came to a traffic standstill due to major snowstorms.

Family Events At Beverly Arts Ctr.

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. will present "The Christmas Schooner", Dec. 14th - 23rd. Based on the true story of the Rouse Simmons, a schooner ship which brought the first evergreen trees to Chicago by way of the treacherous winter waters of Lake Michigan. This story of love, faith, and family is bound to become your family's new Christmas tradition.

The Chicago Kids Company's holiday classic, "Mrs. Claus! A Holiday Musical" will be presented Dec. 1st to 23rd.

14th Annual 19th Ward Children's Film Festival will be shown Thursday, Dec. 28th. The feature has "PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie" at 10 a.m. and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem" at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$1 and available on a first come, first served basis.

The Second Friday Artist Reception: "Silent Haiku" by Julian Wang is scheduled for Dec. 8th from 6 to 8 p.m.

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.

For ticket information, visit beverlyartscen.com.

State Plan For New Shelter Sites

Advancing a data-driven plan to improve the asylum seeker response and provide safe shelter through the winter, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Human Services announced construction will launch this week on two new shelter sites. The sites, a base camp in Brighton Park and a brick-and-mortar site in Little Village, will house up to 2,200 asylum seekers. The locations were identified and will operate as part of the existing City of Chicago shelter system. Work to construct and operate the shelters is being funded by the State through Governor Pritzker's recently announced \$160 million investment to improve the asylum seeker pipeline as well as the \$478 million in State funding that has been provided or committed to the asylum seeker response over state fiscal year 2023 and 2024.

In partnership with the City of Chicago, available beds will be prioritized for families and individuals with disabilities who are currently sleeping outdoors, at police stations and at O'Hare airport. While construction on both locations will begin this week, asylum seekers will not move into the Brighton Park location until all environmental concerns have been addressed. Pending this work, the shelter sites are expected to open and begin housing asylum seekers as early as mid-December.

Both sites will offer warm sleeping spaces as well as meals, hygiene facilities, and wrap-around services to allow asylum seekers, particularly those eligible for temporary protected status, to gain work permits and achieve self-sufficiency, thereby alleviating the strain on State and City resources. Construction, shelter operations and wrap-around services will be funded by the State. The two sites will operate as a part of the

existing City of Chicago shelter system with New Life Centers of Chicagoland contracted by the State to provide on the ground support, including quality assurance and community-care services, like conflict resolution, onsite communications, community engagement, and connection with local resources.

In addition to a \$65 million investment in these new shelter sites, the State is also making targeted, data-driven investments on the front and back end of the asylum seeker pipeline, to alleviate bottlenecks. Those investments are as follows:

\$30 million to stand up a large intake center and deploy a welcome team to better support those coming to Chicago who are seeking another final destination, or who have sponsors in Illinois and don't require shelter. With this approach, data indicates the number of new arrivals requiring shelter can be reduced by 10%.

\$65 million in increased funding to expand the wrap-around services the State currently provides at City shelters which enable new arrivals to live independently as they await asylum hearings, including case management, housing assistance, legal services, work permit processing, and workforce development support. The State will continue to provide the rental assistance that allows asylum seekers to transition from shelters to independent living.

Boccia Clinic For Veterans

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Veterans Boccia Clinic and Tournament for ages 18 & up at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Monday, Dec. 11th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact ricardo.lara@chicagoparkdistrict.com for more information.

Light Up The Lake At Navy Pier



Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand ave. will present a reimagined Light Up The Lake holiday program through Dec. 31st. Experience outdoor ice skating with a breathtaking backdrop of Lake Michigan, roast smores by firepits, ignite your creativity at holiday workshops, discover finds with local artisan markets, experience axe throwing, enjoy live music, take a ride on the heated Centennial Ferris Wheel and enjoy fireworks on Saturdays at 9 p.m. Free and ticketed activities for guests of all ages.

Gen X Exhibit In Lockport

The Illinois State Museum announces its popular Growing Up X exhibition is now open at its Lockport Gallery, 201 W. 10th st. Lockport, IL.

The exhibition explores the toys, technologies, and cultural touchstones surrounding Gen Xers in their childhood. Visitors will see items familiar to anyone who grew up in the 1970s and 1980s, from telephones with cords, record and cassette players, and an Apple IIe computer to Teddy Ruxpin and parachute pants. It also provides insights into how growing up during challenging times, like the Vietnam War, Cold War, AIDS crisis, and War on Drugs, shaped Gen Xers.

Visitors will be able to sit on a floral sofa, watch a movie on VHS, play a video game, or listen to a cassette tape. The exhibition also includes a juke-

box where visitors can dial up their favorite nostalgic tunes and interactive screens to watch commercials and news broadcasts from the '70s and '80s.

The public is invited to celebrate the opening of the Growing Up X exhibition during a reception and gallery talk from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2nd at the Lockport Gallery. For more information, contact the gallery at (815) 838-7400.

Growing Up X is on view through June 2024. Admission is free. Visit illinoisstatemuseum.org for more information.

Open House At Cultural Center

The Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington st. will conduct an Open House on Saturday, Dec. 9th from 1 to 6 p.m. Admission is free, RSVP online at cityofchicago.com/dcase.

The historic building invites all ages to join in the fun with a SLOOMOO Slime Activation, live performances by Uniting Voices Chicago, Changing Worlds, Chicago Inclusive Dance Festival and Son Monarcas, family films, holiday shopping at Buddy, Bingo and more.

Stop by anytime to enjoy the engaging arts activities on all four floors and experience the transformative exhibitions on display as part of the Chicago Architecture Biennial.

Legion Post 1028 Invites Veterans

American Legion Central Park Post 1028 will hold its end-of-the-year meeting at 6945 W. Archer on Friday, Dec. 8th at 1 p.m.

A chicken dinner will follow and door prizes, provided by La Preferida Foods will be distributed. The Post seeks new members and this will be an opportunity to meet with fellow veterans.

For information, call John Divizio (708) 423-5922 jdivizio566@gmail.com or Henry Roa (733) 247-1522 mexfolroa@ameritech.net

Ice Rink Open At McKinley Park



Photo courtesy Chicago Park District

The McKinley Park Ice Rink, 2210 W. Pershing rd. is accepting pre-registration on Mondays at noon for the sessions that run two weeks later.

Register on Dec. 4th for the week of Dec. 18th - 24th; Dec. 11th for Dec. 25th - 31st; Dec. 18th for Jan. 1st - 7th; Dec. 25th for Jan. 8th - 14th; Jan. 1st for Jan. 15th - 21st; Jan. 8th for 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.

Santa Breakfast At Legion Post

William McKinley Post #231, The American Legion, 1954 W. 35th st. will conduct Breakfast With Santa on Saturday, Dec. 16th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Other features are hot cocoa bar, photo with Santa and presents while supplies last. Admission is free.

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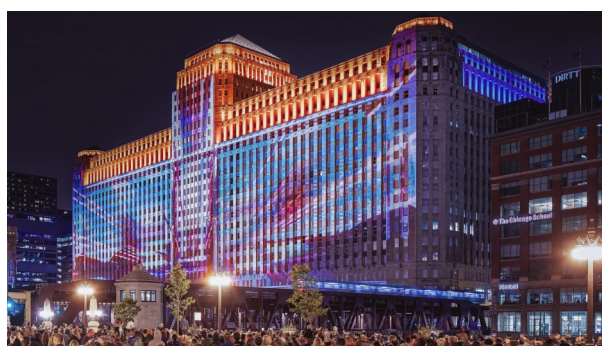
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To complement our weekly edition The Brighton Park-McKinley Park Life has launched a website. On it can be found general information about us, recent and past issues, advertising information. Send neighborhood interest stories, student accomplishments, civic organization events to brightonparklife@aol.com. Opinions expressed by guest editors may not represent the viewpoints held by the publisher of the Brighton Park - McKinley Park Life Newspaper.

"Season of Light" At Merchandise Mart



ART ON THE MART celebrates the 'Season of Light' with a new commission by Yorgo Alexopoulos, a School of the Art Institute of Chicago alum, known for immersive moving image works. The 2023 winter program is on view through Dec. 30th at 7:30 p.m.

Alexopoulos is best known for immersive video installations and mixed-media sculptures that fuse his own paintings, drawings, photographs, and digitally created assets. His new time-based digital animation work, "Out of the Sea Came Eternity", will take viewers on a journey through a series of visual chapters.

The winter program also features a collaborative work titled "Analog" made by students from SAIC's fall 2023 Department of Art & Technology / Sound Practices Department.

Charles Atlas' projection "The Geometry of Thought" will run through Dec. 5th. Best viewed from the Riverwalk on Wacker Drive between Wells Street and Franklin Street. For more information, visit artonthemart.com.

Ridge Library Plans Programs

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

Baby & Toddler Programs

Time for Tots ages 18-36 month Mondays, Nov. 27th, Dec. 4th & 11th at 10:30 a.m. Read stories, learn the ABCs, sing songs and make a craft to take home.

Time for Tots, ages 18 to 36 months with a caregiver, will experience stories, songs, rhymes and a themed craft to take home. Early arrivals can color, build puzzles and play with toys. The event is offered Mondays

Support Letters For Veterans

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs launched the 2023 "Operation Rising Spirit," campaign encouraging service organizations, schools, communities, and individuals to write letters of appreciation and support to veterans residing at the state veterans' homes in Anna, Chicago, LaSalle, Manteno and Quincy.

Notes may be sent directly to Crystal Womack, The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, Central Office, 833 S. Spring st., Springfield, IL 62794-9432. Letters will be disseminated equally to the five homes.

Notes may also be sent directly through the IDVA website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/services%20benefits/homes/Pages/send-a-note.aspx>

through Dec. 11th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

School Age Programs

The Science Connections program will conduct Stumping STEM Challenges for ages 8 to 10, Dec. 4th at 4:30 p.m.

Senior Programs

Games People Play is available on Thursday, Nov. 30th from 2 to 4 p.m. with Scrabble, Pinochle, Yahtzee, cards, trivia and more. Bring your own game and a friend.

Senior Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 9th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bud and Marge will serenade with holiday tunes and good cheer. Wear something festive - gold, red or green. Refreshments will be provided.

Adult Programs

Crochet 101 Series on Sunday, Dec. 10th from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Create your own project. Bring what you have from home or we have supplies.

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

Lyric Opera Opens Season

The Lyric Opera of Chicago has scheduled an impressive line-up for the 2023-24 season.

The schedule includes "Cinderella", Jan. 21st - Feb. 10th; "Champion", Jan. 27th - Feb. 11th; "Aida", Mar. 9th - Apr. 7th and "Requiem", Mar. 22nd & 24th.

For more information, visit lyricopera.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.

Graphic Novel and Manga Book Discussions will be held on Thursdays, Nov. 30th and Dec. 21st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Each month, read and discuss a graphic novel and a manga selection. Stay for the conversations that can be anything from the details of the book to the latest happenings in comic book culture.

Family Craft Night will be enjoyed on Thursday, Dec. 14th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

LEGO Duplo Club will meet on Thursdays, Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th to 21st from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Families with children ages 5 & up will build their own design or try a design challenge. Work on your own or as a team.

Middle Schoolers in grades 6 to 8 are invited to play video games or Nintendo Switch, make crafts and art on Tuesdays through Dec. 19th from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Family Story time will feature picture books, stories, songs and a paper craft activity on Tuesdays through Dec. 19th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Preschool Story time will feature picture books, stories, songs and other fun activities to practice literacy skills on Wednesdays through Dec. 20th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

STEM Agent Academy - Secret Agent Science for 3rd through 8th grade is conducted on Thursdays through Dec. 21st from

Ice Skating At Maggie Daley Park

The Ice Skating Ribbon at Maggie Daley Park, 333 E. Randolph st. is releasing tickets on a rolling basis on Mondays at 12 p.m. on the following dates: Dec. 4th for Dec. 18th - Jan. 7th; Dec. 18th for Jan. 8th - Jan. 21st; Jan. 8th for Jan. 22nd - Feb. 4th; Jan. 22nd for Feb. 5th - Feb. 19th; Feb. 5th for Feb. 20th - March 3rd; and Feb. 26th for March 4th - March 10th (Closing Day).

Ice resurfacing takes place between sessions and prior to opening.

Open 7 days a week: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 to 4 p.m., 5 to 7 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m.

Visit info@maggiedaleypark.com or call (312) 552-3000.

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join Mx. Dannie to perform a variety of science experiments.

Attendees and their families will be invited to attend Family Day at the Museum of Science and Industry on Saturday, Dec. 2nd. A bus from the library branch will travel to the museum for a day of exploring.

Poetry Workshop with Brighton Park Poets will be held on Sundays, Dec. 10th and 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 will be available on Thursday, Nov. 30th from 5 to 7 p.m. Design & create with the 3D Printer, button maker, vinyl cutter, play video games and just chill and read.

An Improv and Storytelling workshop with Tellin' Tales Theatre will be held on Monday, Dec. 4th from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Teaching artists utilize unique theater games and improvisation to explore techniques that bring a personal story to life.

An Earthshakers Nature Club for ages 6 to 13 is set for a Thursday, Dec. 7th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

A Banner Making Workshop will be taught on Saturday, Dec. 9th from 12 to 2 p.m. Artist, Aram Han Sifuentes, started the project Protest Banner Lending Library in November 2016. She facilitates free public workshops and maintains lending libraries.

An Interactive Caroling Concert by the Old Town School of Folk Music will be enjoyed on Sunday, Dec. 10th from 2 to 3 p.m.

Smartphone Photography 101: Starring Your Neighborhood will be taught on Tuesday, Dec. 12th from 6 to 7 p.m. Learn mobile photography tips and tricks, explore options for editing your creations and transition from taking pictures to making pictures. Visit chicagopubliclibrary.org to register.

Holiday Magic At Brookfield Zoo



Photo provided by CZS Brookfield Zoo

A 20-foot-tall orb featuring thousands of LED lights is the perfect place to take a memorable photo at Brookfield Zoo's Holiday Magic.

Brookfield Zoo's 42nd annual Holiday Magic®, lights festival takes place Dec. 1st-3rd, 7th-10th, 14th-17th, 21st-23rd, and 26th-31st, from 3 to 9 p.m. (Brookfield Zoo will not be open until 3 p.m. on these dates.)

The park will be illuminated with two million LED lights, creating a magical winter wonderland. Light displays of giant animals—bison, reindeer, giraffe, and bear—can be seen throughout the Zoo, and guests will stroll through two, 300-foot light tunnels synchronized to seasonal tunes. Adding to the ambience are the nearly 900 lit and decorated community and corporate trees located on the malls and around Roosevelt Fountain.

Nightly entertainment from 5 to 8 p.m. takes place throughout the Zoo. At the North Pole, located in The Pavilions, guests can take in performances by Those Funny Little People and juggling elves, and youngsters can share their photos taken with Santa. Youngsters can also deposit their holiday wish lists in the Santa Letter Drop Box. On the Nature Stage, zoogoers can watch professional ice carvers create frozen works of art from giant blocks of ice. Roaming carolers will sing holiday songs and dance parties take place at Polar Plaza.

Photo opportunities include inside the luminous 20-foot-tall orb, in front of a 41-foot-tall tree or next to a 16-foot-tall 3D gingerbread house.

Indoor and outdoor animal habitats to be open include Tropic World, Big Cats, The Swamp, Feathers and Scales, Reptiles and Birds, Desert's Edge,

Clouded Leopard Rain Forest, The Living Coast, Hamill Family Wild Encounters (reindeer and goats only), Great Bear Wilderness, Australia House, and Hamill Family Play Zoo. All indoor animal buildings close at 8:30 p.m., except for Tropic World and Hamill Family Play Zoo, which close at 8 p.m.

Admission is \$29.95 for adults, \$20.95 for children, and \$24.95 for seniors 65 and older. Parking is \$17-\$20. Advanced reservations are not required for entry at the North Gate, however, guests are encouraged to secure admission and parking online prior to their visit. For South Gate entry, advance reservations and parking fees are required. To make reservations and for more information, visit CZS.org/HolidayMagic.

Housing Agency For Older Adults

Spanish Coalition for Housing, a Chicago-based counseling agency is raising awareness about the increasing rate of older adults becoming unsheltered and connect them to resources for housing stability.

Older adults face low and fixed incomes through retirement, part-time or hourly jobs, and higher health-related costs.

The Chicago Housing Authority has 43 properties that have been accommodated to meet the needs of older residents, such as renovated kitchens and bathrooms and upgraded heating and cooling systems.

To learn more about the free services offered by SCH or register for a free workshop, visit www.sc4housing.org/cha or call (312) 850-2660.

Obituaries

RALPH FLORES JR. passed away on Nov. 15th at the age of 44. Born in Wichita Falls, Texas, he was the son of Ralph Flores Sr. and Daisy Castro. Visitation will be held Thursday, Nov. 30th, at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart from 3 to 8 p.m. Interment will be private.

JULIO C. LEON passed away on Nov. 21st at the age of 26. He was the son of Julio Leon and Fabiola Melendez; friend of Joanna Chavez; father of 1 1/2 year old Jaziah; brother of Dillanira, Gadiel Tolentino. Visitation was held Nov. 24th at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Interment was at St. Casimir Cemetery, 4401 W. 111th st.

CYNTHIA SIRCHER passed away on Oct. 27th at the age of 57. She was the daughter of late Thomas Sircher and late Mary Mckenrick; mother of Meagan Cluchey and late Anthony Cluchey; sister of Tom Sircher, John Sircher, Milyan Ralls and Jamyla Ralls; aunt of Ashley Spencer; grandmother of Angelica Sircher, Aimee Sircher and Brianna Spencer. Visitation was held Nov. 28th at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 6001 W. 111th st.

Zarzycki Plans Holiday Service

Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Ltd., 8999 S. Archer rd., Willow Springs will hold its annual holiday remembrance service on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Prayer, candle lighting and reflection will offer support and comfort for those in attendance. A special video memorial will be shown in memory of those lost this year. A light reception and fellowship will follow.

The family owned and operated business was established in 1915. Owners Charmaine, Claudette and Andrea Zarzycki also own and operate a Chicago location in Archer Heights. For more information on attending, visit www.ZarzyckiManorChapels.com or call (708) 839-8999.

Teen Club At Archer Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Teen Club at Archer Park for ages 12 to 16 on Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m. through Dec. 8th. Enroll at chicagopark.district.com.

SACRED HEART IN THANKSGIVING NEVER-FAIL NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, loved, adored, glorified throughout the world now and forever. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day, on the ninth day your prayers will be answered. Publication must be promised. Thank you for prayers answered.

C.M.

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, Dec. 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th 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.

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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>.

English Literacy Volunteers Needed

Aquinas Literacy Center, 1751 W. 35th st. needs volunteers to help adult immigrants learn English. You do not have to speak another language, all tutoring is in English for 90 minutes per week.

The next tutor workshop will be conducted on Saturday, Jan 27th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Register in advance to begin tutoring. For more information, contact the Associate Director at sabrina@aquinasliteracycenter.org or (773) 927-0512.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish Welcomes You
Both Churches are Handicapped Accessible

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

Masses at St. Therese
Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander
Sunday Masses
8AM in English
10:30am Cantonese
Weekday Schedule
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass
December 3, 2023

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

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Friday, Dec. 8
8AM St. Therese · 7PM St. Barbara

See YOU in Church this weekend

TOYS FOR TOTS
ALL RIDERS MUST BRING A NEW TOY

46th CHICAGO MOTORCYCLE PARADE

STARTS AT 9:30AM DAN RYAN WOODS 83RD AND WESTERN

FOR MORE INFO GO TO CHICAGOLANDTFT.ORG

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For more information, please call 708-598-4909

Only "Street Legal" Motorcycles. No ATVs or Quad Runners Permitted.

PLEASE RE-ROUTE Avoid Traffic Delays
The parade is divided into sections called "Tons". There are intervals between each section to allow cross traffic.
MOTORCYCLES WILL PARADE BETWEEN 9:30-4pm

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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.

The Museum's youth initiative Yollcalli Arts Reach has been chosen to participate in a charitable giving campaign funded by Target. Now through Dec. 31st, vote for us through the Target Circle program. Find out more and vote at www.target.com/circle.

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.

Viva la Vida, a monthly workshop series tailored for creative ages

55 and up are invited on Thursday, Nov. 30th from 1 to 3 p.m. for an immersive experience in the galleries followed by an art making activity. The theme of the afternoon will be Day of the Dead, creating clay sculptures using terracotta air dry clay, beads and other materials.

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

Families with neurodiverse loved ones or who have other sensory sensitivities are invited to Mananas en el museo on Saturday, Dec. 2nd from 9 to 11 a.m. and experience the galleries before public hours, engage in activities and artmaking for all ages and developmental levels. Registration is required, email angela@nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org.

Museum of Asian Art Schedules Programs



Photo provided by Heritage Museum of Asian Art

Traditional Ink Painting Workshop with a Christmas theme.

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 Chi-

nese 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.

A free Field Tour Program is designed for children of all ages to have a journey through the rich and diverse cultures of Asia on Saturday, Dec. 9th from 2 to 3 p.m.

A traditional Ink Painting Workshop with a Christmas theme will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16th from 2 to 3:30 p.m. A limited amount of tickets are available for purchase at heritageasianart.org.

Archer Heights Library Schedules Programs

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

The Banned Books Club will meet to discuss on Thursday, Dec. 28th from 4 to 5 p.m. December's topic is *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe.

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.

Conversations & Coffee: English Languages are planned for Sundays through Dec. 17th from 3 to 4 p.m. Join new English speakers for 60 minutes or practice in a relaxed environment. All levels are welcome.

Maker Monday: Art Club for ages 13 to 19 will be offered Mondays through Dec. 18th from 4 to 5 p.m. Materials will be provided to create a fun art project.

Self Care for ages 13 to 19 will be offered on Thursday, Dec. 7th from 4 to 5 p.m. Each month, a new activity will give teens the tools to manage their mental health.

Beading Time: Craft for Adults will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2nd from 2 to 3 p.m. Make bracelets, necklaces and ornaments with your own beads or use ours. On Dec. 9th, an Illusion Necklace will be created for a special occasion or for a gift. Register at the registration desk.

The Manga and Anime Club will meet on Thursday, Dec. 14th from 4 to 5 p.m. Discuss books,

shows, and discover new favorites.

Family Story and Play Time for ages 0 to 5 and caregivers is held on Thursdays through Dec. 28th from 11 a.m. to 2 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.

Fun Club for ages 3 and up is conducted on Tuesdays through Dec. 26th from 4 to 5 p.m. Each week explore a different craft, experiment or engineering project followed by kid-led play with LEGOs, car tracks.

Snowy Day stories and crafts will be enjoyed on Saturday, Dec. 9th at 11 a.m.

Create your own Candy House with Graham crackers and frosting on Monday, Dec. 18th at 6 p.m.

Craft Lab for teens and adults will feature Gift Cards on Monday, Dec. 11th at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Popcorn Reading for children who will read aloud will be held Wednesdays through Dec. 27th from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Practice reading skills in a fun and supportive environment.

Craft Lab: Gift Cards for teens and adults will be taught on Monday, Dec. 11th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All materials will be provided. Register online or in person.

For more information, visit chipublib.org.

Holiday Events In Chicago Loop



Photo provided by Chicago Loop

Christkindlmarkt at Daley Plaza

Chicago Loop Alliance annually compiles a detailed guide of recommended experiences, restaurants, hotels, Loop deals, Santa in the Loop, and more. The most popular seasonal attractions and downtown businesses are featured in printed pocket guides and updated online Holidays in the Loop guide. View the guide and earn a chance to win a \$1,000 Loop Staying package at LoopChicago.com/Holidays.

Holiday Traditions and destinations include Christkindlmarkt at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington, through Dec. 24th; Goodman Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*, 170 N. Dearborn, through Dec.

31st; Millennium Park Tree, 11 N. Michigan, through mid-January; State Street Holiday Lights, from Ida B. Wells to Wacker Dr., through early January; Catalog Holiday Marketplace at Willis Tower, 233 S. Wacker Dr., Dec. 5th - 7th; Christmas Candlelight Tours at Glessner House, 1800 S. Prairie ave., Dec. 16th - 17th; *Holidays of Light* by Chicago Sinfonietta at Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Ida B. Wells dr., Dec. 15th; ShopColumbia's 15th Annual Holiday Market, 619 S. Wabash ave., Dec. 4th - 20th and The Peppermint Lounge at Revival Food Hall, 125 S. Clark st., through Jan. 5th, 2024.

Holiday Flower Show At Lincoln Conservatory



Photo provided by Chicago Park District

Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton dr. will present "Wintergreen," the 2023 Winter Flower Show Wednesdays to Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Jan. 7th. Featuring a giant green tree silhouette lit by thousands of green LEDs. The Show House features unique poinsettia colors of gold, green and orange accompanied by salvias, violas and flowing lime ipomea with silver dichondra.

Make reservations at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/lincoln-park-conservancy-17342067619>

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 through 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.

The Holiday STEAM Challenge will be conducted on Thursday, Nov. 30th from 4 to 4:45 p.m. Kids 5 and up are invited to take on challenges related to the winter holidays.

Baby and Toddler Play Group will meet on Thursdays, Dec. 14th, Jan. 4th and Feb. 1st from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Family Crafts for ages 3 and up and their care-

givers will be conducted on Wednesday, Dec. 20th from 6 to 6:45 p.m.

LEGO at the Library for ages 4 to 13 are invited to take on a variety of challenges or free build on Wed., Dec. 27th from 4 to 4:45 p.m.

Group Games for ages 5 to 13 will feature board, card and party games on Wed., Jan. 3rd from 2 to 2:45 p.m.

Visit chicagopubliclibrary.org to register.

City Support For Caregivers

The City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services offer caregiver services programs that include free services.

Education & training: Learn new skills to care for you and loved one.

Gap-filling funds: help buying essential items like clothing, grab bars, eyeglasses, technology and hearing aids.

One-on-one counseling: help with decisions, self-care and support.

Support groups: share your stories, successes, and challenges caring for your loved ones with fellow caregivers.

Respite: Take a short-term break with help at home from a professional caregiver or caregiver of your choice or a nursing home stay for the person receiving your care.

Programs are for individuals of any age who are caring for: a Chicago resident age 60+ or under age 60 with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

Contact the DFSS Senior Services Division Information and Assistance Unit aging@cityofchicago.org or (312) 744-4016.

Nature Art Class At Ryan Woods

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct an "Art in Nature" course at the Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th and Western on Saturday, Dec. 23rd from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

All materials will be provided. Ages 15 and up. Registration is required at (312) 415-2970.

8th District CAPS Meeting

CAPS Beats 815 & 821 will meet at the Archer Park Fieldhouse, 4915 S. Kilbourn on Wednesday, Dec. 6th at 7 p.m. The districts cover 38th to 55th st. and Pulaski to Cicero. For more information, contact (312) 747-8724 or email caps.008district@chicagopolice.org.

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 Dec. 15th from 7 to 10 p.m. Enter and check-in through the Atrium Entrance off of Racine Street. +21 wrist-

bands are available at check-in for complimentary wine bar.

POP! Art through Dec. 15th in the 4th floor gallery, curated by Zak Blatt and Marci Rubin, features artwork that stimulates conversations regarding popular cultural trends.

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.

Register at bridgeportart.com

Food Scraps For Compost

The Department of Street and Sanitation announced its first-ever city-wide composting initiative, a Food Scrap Drop-Off program, which allows residents to bring their household food scraps to one of 15 locations.

To participate, residents sign up for a nearby drop-off location, collect in sealed containers, and bring the collected materials to the green carts at the drop-off sites. Upon collection, these materials are transferred to a composting facility, where food scraps are processed into compost, a product that can be used to improve soil health.

Local drop-off sites are: West Elsdon, 3720 W. 55th st. and Brighton Park, 3359 S. Maplewood Ave.

For more information on recycling and where to sign up, visit www.chicagorecycles.org.

Veterans Program For Resources

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will explain how to get connected to resources tailored for veterans and their families on Monday, Dec. 4th from 12 to 4 p.m. at the 12th Ward Office, 3868 S. Archer.

Healthcare, medical disability, employment, financial assistance will be featured topics. For more information, contact (773) 475-6783 or ward12@cityofchicago.org.

Civic Meeting In Archer Heights

The Archer Heights Civic Association will conduct a general membership meeting in the St. Richard Church Hall, 50th and Kostner at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13th.

Topics for discussion will include updates on several ongoing issues.

All community residents are welcome to join the meeting to keep informed. Coffee and cake will be served.



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