



# Merry Christmas!

## Teachers and the war



By Dr. R. Pletsch

I have been reading articles that pertain to the current war in the Middle East. I have been looking for articles about how different School Boards are handling the issue of teachers and what is talked about in their classrooms. There is no doubt that the students' interests go the full range of emotions and opinions. Many understand that the First Amendment can be limited. This is the case of classroom teachers when the subject is controversial or inflammatory. There is also the question of the curriculum if your School Board does not list the Middle East or current events. You could get fired in many states for not following their laws. Has non-retention of faculty happened? I have not found this in the read-

ings but many have been officially warned to stop and adhere to the local law. The teacher is in many districts an extension of the district itself. The districts are political and do not like conflict. They understand the great influence many teachers have over their students. Many officials have advised teachers that if the subject is too volatile, to try to avoid it and explain all sides the best you can. There is no doubt that this war is racial. Many people see it as Jews vs Arabs. The members of both these groups say God is on their side. What is very hard for many of our parents and students is to understand groups they are not familiar with. A 7th grader asks a simple question and the question is, isn't wrong wrong?

There are some deep questions. If someone's ancestors killed one of your ancestors, does that mean you should kill them? The world is in turmoil and teachers have a great responsibility but should a 3rd grade teacher talk about murder being okay, and so is rape and killing civilians who can't fight back.

Teachers in America know what is not okay to talk to children about. Would you want your student to hear about these things in school taught by a teacher who does not think like you? If you teach in a religious based school, and teach about something that faith does not believe in, it may cause you problems and many of the schools consider that immoral to teach against the group that hired you. If you brag in class that you have had several abortions, you have the right to say it, but it is exposing your First Amendment to scrutiny. There are many questions like this, and school districts have a lot to consider, including the ethnicity of your constituents.

Fear of problems arising have caused many schools to hire more armed security, especially from fears from threats to both groups of people. Some of you might think this doesn't exist, because those groups have very few students in the school you are involved with. Fears have risen over the last couple weeks when there are statements on the internet that certain leaders that claim to be speaking for Hamas made a statement that we kill all the Jews and then all the Americans and Christians. My hope is that most feel more American and it can start in the classroom by teachers having their personal opinions step aside and try to teach tolerance and understanding. These are some of the reasons our families came to live in the USA. I understand that ethnicity can be hard to live with during a war. That most claim God for their side. An example is my own family during the Civil War fought on both sides and died for both sides. I was told by my family that we had family from Louisiana and heart strings play loud and long.

## Key Changes For 2024-25 FAFSA

The 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid form will be available by Dec. 31st with some big changes.

The federal deadline to submit the form will be June 30th. Some states and colleges have their own deadlines for financial aid, so check for updates at StudentAid.gov/fafsa-deadlines.

You must submit the right form(s) to apply for federal student aid.

"Contributor" refers to anyone (you, your spouse, your biological or adoptive parent, or your parent's spouse) who's asked to provide their information, consent and approval to have their federal tax information transferred from the IRS into the FAFSA form, and signature.

Unless they've legally adopted you, your grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, siblings, and aunts and uncles aren't considered contributors—even if they helped provide for or raise you.

Being identified as a contributor won't make your family member responsible for paying for your education costs.

No matter whether you're a dependent or independent student, your contributors must participate on your form to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

You must provide consent and approval to be eligible for federal student aid.

To start your online 2024-25 FAFSA form, you'll need to log in to

your StudentAid.gov account. If you don't have one already, you and your contributors will each need to create your own, access the online form, provide consent and approval, sign, and submit the form.

Each of your contributors will be able to create a StudentAid.gov account even if they don't have an SSN.

As a student, you'll be required to enter your SSN to create your StudentAid.gov account.

After you and your contributors have created your accounts, you can complete your sections of the form on your own.

The formula used to determine your financial aid eligibility is changing. Your Student Aid Index number is calculated with the information that you and your contributors provide.

Once your college, career school, or trade school knows your SAI, they will use it to calculate how much and what types of financial aid you're eligible to receive.

You may qualify for additional Federal Pell Grant funds. Your SAI may contribute to the formula to determine your Pell Grant eligibility. Other information, like family size and federal poverty guidelines, will also be used to determine whether you qualify.

After your FAFSA form is submitted and processed, you'll receive an email with instructions on how to access an online copy of your Submission Summary.

## Chicago Scholars Accepting Applications



Photo courtesy of Chicago Scholars

Youth nonprofit, Chicago Scholars is accepting applications to join their 2023 college graduating class program. The organization encourages all high school juniors to apply Feb. 1st. The organization's seven-year college access, success and leadership development program provides the resources, training and opportunities to transition into a professional career.

The newest class of Scholars will receive support throughout the application process, including the opportunity to attend the Onsite College and Leadership Forum, a one-day event that results in offers of admission and merit aid.

Once enrolled in a four-year college, Scholars will receive leadership development and supportive relationships towards their individual needs. For more information, visit <https://chicagoscholars.org/apply>. Professional Chicagoans to serve as mentors to this incoming class may visit <https://chicagoscholars.org>.

## 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](http://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 Plow, 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

period 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.

DSS manages more than 9,400 lane miles of roadway with a fleet of over 300 salt spreaders along with more than 400,000 tons of salt stationed at salt.

## Museum of Asian Art Schedules Programs



Photo provided by Heritage Museum of Asian Art

### 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 Dec. 28th to 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 [heritagemuseumofasianart.org](http://heritagemuseumofasianart.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, Jan. 4th. 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.

## Property Tax Bills Posted On Line

Cook County property owners have no need to wait for their next property tax bills to arrive in the mail to find out how much they will owe by the March 1st due date.

Taxpayers can visit [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) to view, download and prepay their First Installment 2023 property tax bills.

Property tax bills are divided into two annual installments. The First Installment, which is 55 percent of the previous year's total tax, is due March 1, 2024. By providing an early look at the bills, property owners can plan their finances or make payments before the end of the year.

"A lot of bills come due after the holidays," Maria Pappas said. "By posting First Installment bills online months before they are due or even mailed we strive to help people manage their household budgets and plan accordingly."

The Treasurer's Office expects to mail First Installment 2023 bills to owners of about 1.7 million properties around Feb. 1st.

Visiting [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) and follow these steps to download your tax bill and

make a payment: Select the blue box labeled "Pay Online for Free". Enter your address or 14-digit Property Index Number.

There is no fee if you pay from your bank account. The Treasurer's Office accepts partial payments but First Installment taxes must be paid by March 1st to avoid a late charge of .75 percent per month, as mandated by Illinois law.

You can also use [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com): Search \$93 million in available refunds. Check if you are missing out on \$57 million in property tax exemptions, which lower your tax bill.

## Volunteer For Red Cross

The American Red Cross asks you resolve to make a difference and support your community by becoming a volunteer in 2024.

Visit [redcross.org/volunteer](http://redcross.org/volunteer) today to sign up for opportunities. You can help people in your community or sign up to support disaster victims in other parts of the country.

## Church Services

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**  
2745 W. 44th st.  
(773) 523-1402

Saturday, Dec. 23rd, 5 p.m., Misa; 6:30 p.m. Rosario, Posada - Convivio.

Sunday, Dec. 24th, Regular Sunday Mass 8 p.m. Misa de Vigilia de La Navidad en espanol en Immaculada Concepcion.

Monday, Dec. 25th, 12 a.m. Midnight Polish Mass, Five Holy Martyrs, 4327 S. Richmond; 8:30 a.m. Misa espanol en Immaculada Concepcion; 9 a.m., English Mass, Five Holy Martyrs; 10 a.m. Lithuanian Mass Immaculada Concepcion; 10:30 a.m. Polish Mass, Five Holy Martyrs; 12 p.m. Mass espanol en Immaculada Concepcion and 6 p.m. Misa espanol en Immaculada Concepcion.

**ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3658 S. Honore st.  
Adam Gawel, pastor  
Church office (773) 376-5370  
[www.standrewchicago.org](http://www.standrewchicago.org)

Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24th at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. worship service; Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25th at 9:30 a.m. worship service and 7 p.m. Chinese Ministry; New Year's Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31st at 9:30 a.m. worship service and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School.

Monday, Jan. 1st, 7 p.m. Chinese Ministry.

**ST. BARBARA CHURCH**  
2859 S. Throop  
(312) 842-7979

Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24th -Midnight Mass with Carols at 11:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25th Masses at 6 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

**BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH**  
3756 S. Paulina

Christmas Concert presented by the Choirs, on Saturday, Dec. 23rd at 11 a.m.

Christmas Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, 4 p.m. in English and 6 p.m. in Spanish

Christmas day, Dec. 25th: 9 a.m. in English and 11 a.m. in Spanish

New Year's Masses: Sunday, Dec. 31st, 6 p.m. in Spanish.

New Year's Day: Monday, Jan. 1st, 9 a.m. in English and 11 a.m. in Spanish

**ST. RICHARD CHURCH**  
59th & Kostner

**ST. BRUNO CHURCH**  
48th & Harding

Parish office is located at 5030 S. Kostner, (773) 585-1221, Emails: [saint richardchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:saint richardchurch@hotmail.com), [sbruno@comcast.net](mailto:sbruno@comcast.net). Office hours are Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve at St. Bruno 4:30 p.m. English; 7 p.m. Spanish and 10 p.m. Polish.

Christmas Day at St. Bruno, 10:30 a.m. Polish, 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Spanish. At St. Richard 7:30 a.m. Polish, 9 a.m. English and 10:30 a.m. Spanish.

St. Stephen Masses Tuesday, Dec. 26th, 8 a.m., English at St. Bruno; 10 a.m., Polish at St. Richard and 6 p.m., Polish at St. Bruno.

**ST. MOTHER OF TERESA PARISH**  
CALCUTTA PARISH  
218 W. Alexander  
(312) 842-6777

Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24th Mass with Pageant at 5 p.m.

Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25th Masses at 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

## Family Events At Beverly Arts Ctr.

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. will present The Chicago Kids Company's holiday classic, "Mrs. Claus! A Holiday Musical" through Dec. 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 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 [beverlyartscenter.com](http://beverlyartscenter.com).

## 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](mailto:veterans@chicagoparkdistrict.com)

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## BrightonParkLIFE.com

To complement our weekly edition The Brighton Park-McKinley Park Life has launched a website. On it can be found general information about us, recent and past issues, advertising information. Send neighborhood interest stories, student accomplishments, civic organization events to [brightonparklife@aol.com](mailto:brightonparklife@aol.com).

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

## 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.



## 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.

## Ridge Library Plans Programs

The Garfield Ridge Branch, 6347 S. Archer, has scheduled an interesting schedule of programs. Thank You Card Workshop Drop-In for ages 5 to 13 will be conducted on Tuesday, Dec. 26th from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The paper and templates will be provided. 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. Register for events at <https://chipublib.bibliocommons.com/events/>

## 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. Register at [bridgeportart.com](http://bridgeportart.com)

## 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 crime stats and learn crime reduction strategies. For additional information contact he Community Policing Office at (312) 747-3501 or email caps.009district@chicago.police.org.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/PaidLeave) for more information.

## Obituaries



**JERZY GRAFCZYNSKI** of Archer Heights, passed away on Dec. 11th at the age of 84. He was the husband of Maria (nee Gibek); father of Barbara (Christopher) Cassidy; stepfather of Janusz, Renata and Anetta; grandfater of Josiah, Zosia, Christian and Kyle; son of late Zofia (nee Burdek) and late Antoni Grafczynski; brother of Barbara (late Stefan) Krol and Jacek (Janina) Grafczynski; uncle of Jacek, Sylwia and Mateusz. Visitation will be held Thursday, Dec. 21st from 3 to 8 p.m. at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, 5088 S. Archer, 10 a.m. Funeral Mass will be celebrated Friday, Dec. 22nd at St. Richard Church, 50th & Kostner.

**KRYSTYNA SACHAJ** (nee Majchrowska) of Brighton Park; wife of late Stanislaw Sachaj; mother of Lucyna Sachaj, Janusz (Halina) Sachaj and Henryka Pietraszek; grandmother of Jacek and Marek Pietraszek; great grandmother of Jacek, Jr. Visitation will be held Friday, Dec. 22nd from 3 to 8 p.m. at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, 8999 S. Archer Ave., Willow Springs. Funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, Dec. 23rd, 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady, Mother of the Church. Interment will be in Olesno, Poland.



**SONIA DE LA CRUZ SOBERANIS** passed away on Dec. 11th at the age of 55. She was the wife of Juan Rebollo; mother of Aldahir, Josimar and Kiara; sister of Enrique, Isabella, Hugo, Perla, and Pelon; grandmother of 3. Visitation was held Dec. 17th at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Interment was in Guerrero, Mexico.

## Chicago Updates On New Arrivals

The Johnson Administration has transitioned nearly 4,000 asylum-seekers from emergency staging areas into temporary shelters in recent weeks. As of Dec. 14th, all 22 police stations have been decompressed and retired as emergency staging areas.

The City has welcomed nearly 26,000 asylum seekers since August of 2022. Nearly 14,000 asylum seekers have been placed in 27 temporary City shelters.

The Chicago City Council implemented a bus safety ordinance on Nov. 18th to ensure the orderly and safe intake of new arrivals. The ordinance was amended on Dec. 13th, enacting additional penalties, including the impoundment and towing of buses that refuse to comply with safety protocols. Bus companies must unload at designated landing zone and must fill out the requisite paperwork.

The City has resettled or reunited over 10,000 asylum seekers while providing shelter, food and wraparound services for more than 15,000 others.

## CPS Develops Five-Year Plan

The Chicago Board of Education adopted a resolution that aims to guide engagement and development of the District's next five-year strategic plan. The resolution outlines parameters that emphasize strengthening all neighborhood schools as a step toward supporting students and closing opportunity gaps. Work on the District's next plan has begun and will continue this spring with community engagement and outreach, beginning with the Shape Our Future Survey as well as current engagement sessions about the master plan.

The resolution is not a vote to close selective enrollment, magnet or charter schools. The Board has committed to working in partnership with CPS communities to ensure the new plan helps develop high-quality Pre K-12 pathways in neighborhood schools.

## CPS Celebrates Holiday Season

Students, teachers, and staff across Chicago Public Schools are ringing in the holidays with a diverse slate of events and celebrations for their school communities as the calendar year comes to a close. Santa and his elves will be making appearances, popping in for breakfast events and evening choir performances.

Gunsaulus Scholastic Academy in Brighton Park will host their annual Winter Showcases event on Thursday, Dec. 21st. This event features performances from students who have participated in programs such as a folkloric dance club, a breakdancing club, and Merit Music programs. Winter break begins for CPS students on Dec. 22nd and runs through Jan. 5th. Classes resume on Monday, Jan. 8th.

## 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 Thursday, 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. For January, the group will be discussing "Golden Rage, volume 1" by Chrissy Williams and "Akira Book One" by Katsuhiko Otomo.

LEGO Duplo Club will meet on Thursday, Dec. 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.

STEM Agent Academy - Secret Agent Science for 3rd through 8th grade is conducted on Thursday, Dec. 21st from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join Mx. Dannie to perform a variety of science experiments.

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, Dec. 21st and 28th from 5 to 7 p.m. Design and create with our 3D Printer, button maker, vinyl cutter, play video games or just chill and read.

Teen DIY will create Perfume Rollers with provided material on Saturday, Dec. 23rd from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

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.

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

## 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](http://lyricopera.org).

## IDOT Schedules DBE Workshops

The Illinois Department of Transportation is hosting free virtual workshops in January as part of its continuing Building Blocks of Success series for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms interested in strengthening their skills, growing their business and bidding on state projects. New and existing DBEs, as well as firms interested in becoming certified in the program, are invited.

Workshop dates and topics all from 10 a.m. to noon include: Jan. 9th, Accessing Capital; Jan. 11th, Advanced Banking (Underwriting Process); Jan. 16th, Improving your Personal and Business Credit Score; Jan. 18th, What Banks Look For/How to Connect with Lenders; Jan. 23rd, Advanced Insurance and Bonding (Underwriting); Jan. 25th, Insurance, Bonding and Risk Management for Construction Firms; Jan. 30th, Business and Strategic Plans Q&A.

Building Blocks of Success will continue through April. Workshop information, including dates and times, is available through Eventbrite at [bit.ly/DBEworkshops](http://bit.ly/DBEworkshops). Advance registration is required.

Questions can be directed to IDOT's Bureau of Small Business Enterprises at (217) 785-4611.

Through Gov. JB Pritzker's historic, bipartisan Rebuild Illinois, IDOT is helping to deliver the largest capital program in state history while promoting diversity, equity and inclusion.

Administered by IDOT, the DBE program provides minorities, women and eligible small businesses with opportunities to participate in federally and state funded highway, transit and airport contracts. For more information on becoming a certified DBE and learning more about available IDOT resources, visit [www.idot.illinois.gov/dbe](http://www.idot.illinois.gov/dbe).

## 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: Jan. 8th for the week of 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](mailto:info@maggiedaleypark.com) or call (312) 552-3000.

## Symphony Center Schedules Concerts

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

Sir Andrew conducts Handel's Messiah, Dec. 21st to 23rd; 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.

For ticket information, visit [cso.org](http://cso.org) or call (312) 294-3000.

## Warm Christmas Wishes

It's the most wonderful time of the year to celebrate kindness, friendship and family, both past and present. We wish you all the best this holiday season.



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Owner/Director  
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### St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish Welcomes You

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<p><b>Masses at St. Barbara</b> Bridgeport — 2859 S. Throop Saturday, 5 PM, Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM 6 AM &amp; 9:30 AM Sunday Masses <b>Weekday Schedule (Chapel)</b> Tue., Thurs., &amp; Sat. 8 AM Mass</p>	<p><b>Masses at St. Therese</b> Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander Sunday Masses 8AM &amp; 10:30AM in English <b>Weekday Schedule</b> Mon., Wed., &amp; Fri. 8 AM Mass Dec. 24, 4th Sunday of Advent Dec. 25, Christmas</p>
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**St. Barbara: 312-842-7979 St. Therese: 312-842-6777 School 312-326-2837**

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**Christmas Eve Mass with Pageant, 5pm, St. Therese  
Midnight Mass with Carols at 11:30pm, St. Barbara**

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**Christmas Day Mass: 6am & 9:30am, St. Barbara  
8am & 10:30am, St. Therese**

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Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS, AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCREDITED LOANS, INC., MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-QS11

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION MORTGAGE ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC Plaintiff, v. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF CLEATUS MURDAUGH AKIA CLEARLY DEFINED Defendants

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION MORTGAGE ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC Plaintiff, v. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF CLEATUS MURDAUGH AKIA CLEARLY DEFINED Defendants

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK Plaintiff, v. LAURAL ALLEN, THE UNITED STATES - SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT Defendants

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC. Plaintiff, v. ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BANK OF AMERICA NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT SERIES I TRUST

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BANK OF AMERICA NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT SERIES I TRUST

Assistance For Sept. 17th Storm

On Sept. 17th, severe storms passed through Cook County and impacted areas in Chicago. A Presidential Disaster Declaration for this event was signed by President Biden on Nov. 20th, making FEMA assistance available to those impacted.

DCASE Awards Cultural Grants

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events announced 27 "Neighborhood Access Program" grantees, providing \$1 million in funding to organizations and artists.

Nature Play Day At Ryan Woods

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct Open Nature Play Day at the Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th and Western on Wednesdays through Jan. 31st from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To Our Advertisers:

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

PUBLISHERS NOTICE

All real estate notices in this newspaper which are subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination"

Water Dept. Offers New Service Link

The Chicago Department of Water Management is offering free lead service liner replacement and free water meters to income-qualified homeowners through the Equity Lead Service Line Replacement Program.

Employees can file a minimum wage complaint with IDOL at labor.illinois.gov

Employees can file a minimum wage complaint with IDOL at labor.illinois.gov/complaints.html or by calling (800) 478-3998.

Assistance For Utility Costs

State Senator Celina Villanueva urges eligible families to apply for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to receive assistance with natural gas, propane and electricity bills.

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## 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 Kobade.

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 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 Tuesday, 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 and more.

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 Wednesday, Dec. 27th from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Practice reading skills in a fun and supportive environment.

An Adult Book Discussion of "Me Before You" by JoJo Moyes is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 27th from 1 to 2 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.

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

### Special Events At Arboretum

During December and January, The Morton Arboretum will offer special events and in-person and online programming for all ages. Guests are required to reserve timed-entry admission in advance of their visit.

All fees listed are for general public admission to the Arboretum and include free parking, visit [mortarb.org](http://mortarb.org).

Nonmembers can enjoy free admission to the grounds on Christmas Day, Monday Dec. 25th with timed entry reserved in advance online. All buildings and the Children's Garden will be closed. Portable restrooms will be available. Last entry is at 3 p.m. For free tickets, visit [mortarb.org](http://mortarb.org).

## 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>

## 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 Yolcalli 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](http://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 [cmaldonado@luc.edu](mailto:cmaldonado@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](mailto:angela@nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org).

### 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](mailto:sabrina@aquinasliteracycenter.org) or (773) 927-0512. The Literacy Center is sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters.

### 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.

### Application For LSC Election

Chicago Public Schools hosted the official kick-off to the Local School Council election season. Students, families, staff and community members are eligible to serve.

Potential candidates have through Feb. 8th to complete the steps needed to run for a position on their school's LSC. Complete details are available at [cps.edu/lsc](http://cps.edu/lsc).

### Hoops Event At McKinley Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct Hoops in the Park at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Mondays, Jan 15th and Feb. 19th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This is a day out of school event for ages 11 to 17 against first responders. The event is free to all with pizza and prizes. Teens must pre-register for this event at (312) 742-7529.

## 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, Dec. 22nd and 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.

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.

COVID-19 Resources including PPE vaccine information, at-home tests, are offered by The Resurrection Project on Tuesday, Dec. 26th from 2-5 p.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.

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

## Holiday Events In Chicago Loop



Photo provided by Chicago Loop

### Christkindlmarket 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 Station package at [LoopChicago.com/Holidays](http://LoopChicago.com/Holidays).

destinations include Christkindlmarket 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; and The Peppermint Lounge at Revival Food Hall, 125 S. Clark st., through Jan. 5th, 2024.

Holiday Traditions and

## "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 waterfront 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.

This year, Electric Illumination – an 18-and-older late-night experience – will feature a new curated disco and

house music soundtrack from 9:30 to 11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22nd; and an '80s music-themed dance party Dec. 29th. Also new, and exclusive to Electric Illumination, is a 360-degree photo booth featuring a camera that rotates around a platform where guests can stand, pose or dance for a professional-looking video they can share on their social media.

Warm concession tents will offer beverages and snacks, such as s'mores kits, hot chocolate and festive cocktails, 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 [mortarb.org](http://mortarb.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.

### Electronic Ban While Driving

A new law led by State Senator Javier Cervantes prohibits people from using social media or video calling apps while driving in Illinois starting Jan. 1st.

House Bill 2431 prohibits the use of any electronic communications device while operating a motor vehicle, including the use of cell phones and tablets for streaming videos and participating in video conferences on platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams and WebEx. Additionally, the law prohibits any social media applications like Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter from being used while operating a motor vehicle on a public roadway.

Drivers that are currently allowed a permit to use electronic communications devices in hands-free or voice-operated mode by pressing a single button to activate are exempt from the law's provisions.

### 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.

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For more information, contact [brightonparklife@aol.com](mailto:brightonparklife@aol.com)



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