



Judges Are Not Infallible



By Dr. R. Pletsch

Many of us are aware that crimes have been committed by individuals who have already been arrested and some even convicted of crimes. This is very disheartening for the victims and their loved ones.

There seems to be a rising sentiment of much of the informed public that judges should be held accountable. In the November, 2025 issue of Newsmax Magazine there is an article by Alice Giordano concerning this issue. If interested, you might read the entire article for the particulars because I do not like to name people who have not had their day in court but this information is public record.

Ultimately, I believe like a lot of people that the perpetrator is responsible for his own actions. Over my years of teaching, I have taught students who have committed horrible crimes including murder and others who have been the victims or witnesses of these crimes. I could talk about this more, but would not want to bring back the memories for those who are working through it. Some of the hardest situations were having to sit in juvenile court in the same room

with no security with both the perpetrator and the victims there.

During the times we are living, some are punished because of the zeal of others and judges make what some people consider irrational decisions. Here are a few examples. There was a young lady on a train in North Carolina who was stabbed from behind and the alleged killer was a three time convicted felon and was told he must write a promise to return for his next appearance. These crimes were violent crimes and the 23 year old on the train died from her wounds. They were both immigrants. Last year, after warnings by law enforcement, prosecutors and his own family that the alleged violator was a danger, a judge from Maine, released him on a low cash bail and though he was already on probation, he was alleged to be involved after that in an arson and murder. In another case, a man was let go with an ankle bracelet and a warning that he was dangerous and a repeat offender. After being released, he is alleged to have stabbed his wife. There are many cases like this that the victims' families have all said why was this person out of jail to kill my loved ones.

Jake Curtis from the Institute for Reforming Government (IRG) is very interested and mentioned in the same article that they are trying to pass a law Judicial Accountability Irresponsible Leniency "JAIL". He believes the judge should be no different than when they charge a bartender accountable in a drunk driving accident. I hope these situations do not involve many of you and your lives continue better than some of our neighbors.

Free Days At Shedd Aquarium



Photo provided by Shedd Aquarium

Shedd Aquarium is announcing new Illinois resident free days in January and February, giving guests an opportunity to dive into aquatic environments from coral reefs to freshwater rivers.

Admission includes daily Animal Spotlights that highlight the adaptations of marine mammals, touch experiences with sturgeon and starfish, live programs with the chance to see an animal feeding and chats about sharks, penguins and more. Every visit is unique, with evolving habitats like Wonder of Water and opportunities to ask questions about aquatic life.

The Aquarium will closed to the public on Thursday, Jan. 22nd for annual maintenance, cleaning and projects.

Resident Free Days are Jan. 27th-29th, Feb. 3rd-5th, 10th-12th, 17th-19th, 24th-26th.

Resident Free Even-

ings (5 to 9 p.m.) are on Tuesdays, March 3rd through June 30th.

Advance reservations for free days and evenings are recommended due to high demand. Guests can secure tickets ahead of a visit using Shedd's website sheddaquarium.org. There is a \$5 convenience fee per order for free day/evening reservations made online. You can reserve tickets at no extra cost at (312) 939-2438.

Adults must provide proof of residency in person when redeeming tickets at a discounted rate.

Adult guests can celebrate Valentine's Day beneath the waves at Shedd's first-ever Heartbeat House Party, an after-hours evening of house music, themed bites and deep-sea surprises Saturday, Feb. 14th from 7 to 11 p.m. Visit https://www.sheddaquarium.org/tickets?event_id=276.

eBilling Available For Property Tax

Cook County property owners can sign up for eBilling for themselves or family members to receive property tax bills through their computers or smart phones instead of the mail.

The option offers the convenience of allowing spouses to receive copies of tax bills or multiple adult siblings to receive copies of a parent's tax bills.

Sign up at cookcountytreasurer.com. Scroll down to the bottom of the webpage and on the left-hand side you should see a "Contact us" banner. In the middle you'll see a link called, "Sign Up for Electronic Tax Billing" to start setting up your e-billing account.

Enter your name, email address, phone number and 14-digit Property Index Number or PIN. Then create a password and agree to the terms and conditions. Lastly, reply to an email within 72 hours to confirm your registration and activate your eBilling account.

Once you sign up: The paper bill will stop coming to your home mailbox. You'll receive an email when your bill is ready to view.

You can download your bill, save a pdf version or print a copy for your records.

If you don't receive a confirmation email, check your spam filters and

junk email folder to ensure delivery.

You can still pay your bill by mail or in person. Just include the tax bill payment coupon, which is part of the eBill, when you pay.

Paying online at cookcountytreasurer.com transfers funds electronically from your bank account.

Once you sign up for eBilling, you'll be notified via email when your next installment bill is available for online review.

If a mortgage company manages an escrow account and pays your property tax bill on your behalf, you can still sign up for eBilling to access information about your taxes without affecting your mortgage company's ability to pay.

If you own multiple properties in Cook County you can enroll up to 10 Property Index Numbers under a single eBilling account. If you want to change the email address on your eBilling account, simply log in and update your information.

Tax bills for a PIN can be sent to more than one email address, but each email address requires a separate eBilling account.

If you forget the password to your eBilling account, just go to the eBilling login page at cookcountytreasurer.com and click on the "Forgot your password?" link to receive emailed instructions on how to reset your password.

To return to paper billing, log in to your eBilling account and unsubscribe.

CPL Plans Info Workshops

Chicago Public Library will be hosting community workshops at regional libraries to hear from patrons. These open-house style events are designed to gather ideas, priorities and hopes for the organization's future.

Those who complete a few hands-on activities will be entered to win a CPL swag bag.

Locations include Legler Regional Library, 115 S. Pulaski rd. on Thursday, Feb. 5th from 4 to 7 p.m.; Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln ave. on Saturday, Feb. 7th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S. Halsted st. on Saturday, Feb. 7th from 3 to 6 p.m.

Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Register at (312) 747-4300.

Fall Dean's List At Northern Illinois U.

Northern Illinois University of DeKalb announces its fall 2025 Dean's List students. Honorees must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Ariel Alvarado, Health Sciences-General, UIC College Prep. Sofia Alvarado, Art Studio-Design & Media Arts, John Hancock College Prep HS. Tasha Johnson, Psychology - B.A., Lindblom Math and Science Academy. Jesus Lopez, Political Sci-Public Law-B.A., Lane Technical High School.

Julietta Lopez, Rehabilitation & Disability Se, Lincoln Park High School. Ty Martin, Psychology - B.S., Curie Metropolitan High School. Natalia Martinez, ELED-ECE with Special Ed Appr, Curie Metropolitan High School.

Damian Mendez, Health Sciences-General, Whitney M Young Magnet High School. Eduardo Mora, Electrical Engineering, Curie Metropolitan High

School. Andrea Munoz, Nursing, Curie Metropolitan High School. Maritza Ortega, Psychology - B.A., North Grand High School. Allana Joy Parcon, Nursing, Muchin College Prep.

Edwin Perez, Pre-Nursing, Marine Leadership Academy. Pierre Phipps, General Emphasis, Manley Career Academy High School. Juli Reyes, Business Administration - B.S., Golder College Prep-Noble Stre. Mario Reyes, Operations and Info Management, Whitney M Young Magnet High School.

Evelyn Rios, Nursing, Back of the Yards College Prep. Mack Sanders, ELED-Elementary Mathematics Ed, Amundsen High School. Elijah Sheally, Accountancy, Urban Prep Charter-Bronzeville. Hudsonra Townsend, ELED-General Elementary Educ, Corliss High School.

Georgina Vargas, Rehabilitation & Disability Se, Back of the Yards College Prep. Stephanie Verdin, Industrial & Systems Engr, Bolingbrook High School. Tyra Wiles, Health Sciences-General, Morgan Park High School and Monica Zuniga, Nursing, Lane Technical High School.

O'Hare Crowned Busiest Airfield



Photo provided by the City of Chicago

Mayor Brandon Johnson announced that O'Hare International Airport is the busiest airfield in the United States, according to newly released preliminary data from the Federal Aviation Administration. In 2025, 857,392 aircraft landed or took off from O'Hare.

While final global rankings and full passenger figures for 2025 are still pending, the FAA's operations data confirms what Chicagoans already know: O'Hare is the beating heart of American aviation and a cornerstone of the nation's economy.

O'Hare's return to the top spot reflects a post-pandemic recovery, the strength of Chicago's workforce, and the impact of sustained investment in modernization, capacity, and global connectivity.

Preliminary data also shows that Midway International Airport ranked 38th in the nation for takeoffs and landings, with 210,930 in 2025, further underscoring Chicago's strength as a dual-hub system. Across both O'Hare and Midway, an aircraft took off or landed every 30 seconds.

"With Midway playing a critical role in serving millions of business and leisure travelers last year, Chicago's dual-airport system is unmatched by any other U.S. city," said Commissioner McMurray.

Preliminary global data expected early this spring is likely to confirm O'Hare as the busiest airfield in the world, with official rankings from Airports Council International, to be released later this summer.

Free Fitness Centers At Area Parks

The Chicago Park District's fitness centers offer an affordable alternative to private gyms with computerized treadmills, cross trainers, upright bikes, recumbent bikes, free weights and benches, cable cross-overs, multi-station weight machines and equipment. A membership is required.

In addition, many parks offer a variety of fitness classes, including circuit training, conditioning, kickboxing, Pilates, yoga, and aerobics. Classes are not included in the fitness center membership.

Work out for free at the following park fitness centers Feb. 1st to 15th. Davis Square Park, 4430 S. Marchfield ave., 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; Gage Park, 2411 W. 55th st., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; McGuane Park, 2901 S. Poplar ave., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Park No. 596 -

Brighton Park Community Campus, 4830 S. Western ave., 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Ping Tom Memorial Park, 1700 S. Wentworth ave., 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and West Lawn Park, 4233 W. 65th st., 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Register at chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Dean's List At St. Mary's College

Isabella Avila (60608) and Giuliana Graczyk (60609) were named to Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame, Indiana Dean's List for the Fall 2025.

Honorees must achieve a grade point average of at least 3.6 on a 4.0 scale, have a minimum of 12 graded credit hours, no incompletes, and no grades lower than a C.

Mexican Museum Offers Programs



Photo provided by The National Museum of Mexican Art

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

Visit Hoy Cultura en nuestra comunidad: Ray Patlan in Chicago 1968-1975. The exhibition highlights early painting, drawings, photographs, and personal belongings.

Rieles y Raices: Traqueros in Chicago and the Midwest in the Xicago Gallery is on exhibit through April 26th.

Adults ages 55+ are invited to experience Viva la Vida: Mini Murals on Thursday, Jan. 22nd at 10 a.m. Followed by an artmaking activity. This month, we will create mini murals using a grid transfer method.

Join us for the next Late Wednesday on Feb.

4th until 8 p.m. Enjoy the museum after hours with extended access to the galleries.

The Museum's youth initiative, Yollocalli Arts Reach will present the Anti-Valentine's Day Party at the Fire Station, 24th & Whipple on Friday, Feb. 6th from 6 to 9 p.m. This event is for teens and young adults under 24 years old. Admission is free, but registration is encouraged.

The Education Department offers programs that allow children and adults to learn about Mexican art through engaging art activities.

Studio Saturday: Train Design for ages 7 to 12 on Feb. 14th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Building Trans & Tracks for ages 6+ & under on Saturday, Feb. 14th from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Visit nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org for more details.

Indoor Run At Chicago Auto Show

Chicago Auto Show organizers have teamed up again with the Chicago Area Runners Association to produce Miles Per Hour, an indoor run guiding participants through the 2026 Chicago Auto Show on Sunday, Feb. 8th. Runners are challenged to see how far they can run in one hour, thus finding their own "miles per hour." Once the 60 minutes are up, runners gather for awards, photos and refreshments.

Last year's event attracted more than 700 runners, and organizers hope to grow participation this year.

Runners will compete on an approximately 2.4-mile loop through the halls of McCormick Place, 2301 S. King dr. where they will receive early access to the Chicago Auto Show. The course will include a variety of long straightaways, some zig-zags and an incline as runners ascend the

indoor bridge over Lake Shore Drive.

Awards are presented to the top three men and women in each age group, based on the most distance covered. The top overall male and female will take home the Miles Per Hour cup.

Registration includes a race entry, a ticket to the Chicago Auto Show with early access on race day, a participant t-shirt, a finisher medal, free digital photo downloads, discounted early access tickets for friends and family and gear check. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.chicagoautoshow.com/events/miles-per-hour/>. For more information on the 2026 Chicago Auto Show, visit <http://www.ChicagoAutoShow.com>.

The Auto Show will be open daily at 10 a.m.; Feb. 7th & 9th - 15th, closes at 9 p.m.; Feb. 8th, closed at 6 p.m. and Feb. 16th, closes at 8 p.m.

Williams Honored

Anthony Williams was named to the Miami University of Oxford, Ohio fall 2025 President's list.

Students ranked in the top three percent of undergraduate students within each division for the fall 2025 semester are recognized for academic excellence.

Seropian Honored

Bucknell University of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania has named Angelina Seropian (2026) Psychology to the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2025-26 academic year. Honorees must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 for recognition.

Application For Library "Makers"

The maker-in-residence program at Chicago Public Library brings makers to share their technique with patrons and create a work displayed in the State Street window. Application closes on Wednesday, Feb. 11th.

Each 12-week residency is based at Harold Washington Library Center with an honorarium of \$6,500. The spring residency runs from March through June and the summer residency runs from June through September.

To ensure their craft is experienced citywide, the maker will facilitate two classes at Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State st.; Legler Regional, 115 S. Pulaski rd.; Sulzer Regional, 4455 N. Lincoln ave. and Woodson Regional 9525 S.

Halsted st.

All Makers-in-Residence will: Facilitate eight classes for library patrons. Access Maker Lab equipment and staff assistance. Interpret local culture or history using their craft, Maker Lab tools and additional supplies.

Create a work incorporating themes explored with class participants. Have their work exhibited at Harold Washington Library Center.

Be compensated \$6,500 for the 12-week residency. Have a supply budget of \$1,000.

Makers work 10 hours per week which includes scheduled Meet the Maker events.

Apply at chipublib.org

103rd Birthday



On Jan. 9th, American Legion Central Park Post 1028 celebrated WW II veteran Tony Hernandez's 103rd birthday. WGN TV CH9 covered the event that can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/reel/845139361852968>.

The Post meets every second Friday of the month at The Moose Lodge, 7536 S. Harlem ave. Free pizza and beverages are served.

First year dues are waived. For more information contact John Divizio at (708) 423-5922 or jdivizio566@gmail.com.

Dean's List At Miami U.

Miami University of Oxford, Ohio students who are ranked in the top twenty percent of undergraduates within each division for the fall semester 2025 have been named to the Dean's list recognizing academic excellent.

Local scholars are Christopher Morris, Sophia Sikorski, Jakie Hernandez and Henry Sikorski.

BrightonParkLIFE.com

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

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

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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.

ALL AGES

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

Messy Art! Paintbrush Portraits on Monday, Feb. 2nd at 6 p.m. Create a portrait inspired by the Chicago artist Mr. Imagination using repurposed materials. We will provide all the supplies and a project sample for inspiration.

CHILDREN

Family Story Time for children 0 to 5 and their caregivers will be held on Thursdays, Jan. 22nd to 29th and Feb. 5th, 19th and 26th from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Start your day with stories, songs and fun for the whole family.

LEGO Club on Monday, Jan. 26th at 6 p.m. Put your engineering skills to the test with one of our challenges or use your imagination to build your own creations. For ages 5 and up.

TWEENS & TEENS

High school students who need help with research for a school assignment can request an appointment with our Teen Librarian to review

databases, printed sources and other resources. Call (312) 747-9241 to make an appointment.

Teen Volunteer Hour on Thursdays, Jan. 29th, Feb. 5th & 26th and March 26th from 4 to 5 p.m. Earn 2 volunteer hours while helping at your library. Grades 6-12 only.

Teacher in the Library Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. and Sundays, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

ADULTS

Adult Book Discussion on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 1 to 2 p.m. Join us for a friendly conversation. Books are available at the circulation desk.

Adult Book Discussion on Wednesday, Jan. 28th from 1 to 2 p.m. will feature "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen. Books are available at the circulation desk.

Celebrate Pride and Prejudice Day on Wednesday, Jan. 28th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. "Pride and Prejudice" was first published on Jan. 28th, 1813. Celebrate with a proper craft, snacks, and watching the 2005 movie starring Keira Knightly and Matthew McFlyden.

Visit the reference desk for a free spice kit.

CINEMA

Join us on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. for films and snacks. "Happy Feet" (PG), family movie, Jan. 25th.

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. 23rd from 6 to 10 p.m. Attendees will explore various art studios, interact with local artists, and witness their works in progress.

Reserve tickets for free at bridgeportart.com

Be sure to explore the other floors of the Art Center and discover the studios and workshops of

tenants. In addition to over 10,000 sq. ft. of gallery space, there are artists on every floor. The Chicago Maritime Museum is open for free on the River Level during open studios.

Are you an artist looking for a perfect office in a unique creative community? Learn about finding your space the Bridgeport Art Center, call (773) 843-9000.

McKinley Library Schedules Programs

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

KIDS & FAMILIES

Little Learners Story Time, ages 0 to 5, on Fridays, through Jan. 30th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Join us for songs, movements, stories and Play time.

LEGO Club for ages 6 to 13 will feature "Fidget Spinner" on Jan. 22nd, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Family Fun for ages 1 to 13 will create "Snow Dobleck" on Jan. 31st from 2 to 3 p.m.

Bilingual Family Board Game for ages 5+ on Monday, Jan. 26th from 4 to 6 p.m.

Digital Ticketing For State Fair

The Illinois State Fair is transitioning to digital ticketing for Aug. 13th to 23rd in Springfield. This modernization will provide guests with a more convenient, secure, and streamlined entry process.

Fairgoers should download their tickets before arriving at the fairgrounds or save tickets to their mobile phone's e-wallet for easy entry.

Mega Passes and Jumbo Passes must be redeemed at the Illinois State Fair administration offices (Emmerson Building) for a photo identification card. Passes can be redeemed starting in June 2026. Passes will not be replaced if lost or stolen.

TWEEN/TEEN

Teen Craft n' Snack will explore 3D Printing for ages 11-19 on Wednesday, Jan. 28th from 3 to 5 p.m.

ADULTS

Open Art Studio with Ericka Soto on Saturday, Jan. 24th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Supplies are provided or you are free to bring your own. All skill levels are welcome.

The Adult Book Club will discuss "The Cliffs" by J. Courtney Sullivan on Wednesday, Feb. 11th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Teacher in the Library returns on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

Retail Scholarship Challenge Launches

The Illinois Retail Merchants Association announced the launch of the Illinois Retail Scholarship Challenge, which encourages high school seniors to develop creative, practical solutions to business challenges facing the retail sector, with teams competing for scholarships of up to \$60,000.

Supported by grant funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the contest is designed to spark innovation, engage students, and strengthen the retail industry, which is the state's largest private-sector employer, generating \$112 billion in economic activity annually.

Students will work in teams of two to four to develop a solution to retail challenge in collaboration with retail partners, including Roundy's/Mariano's and Walgreens. A

Programs At Beverly Arts

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. has scheduled Jan. 24th: Sons of Chicago: Tribute to Bruce Springsteen & Bob Seger. Jan. 30th: Second Hand News: Fleetwood Mac Tribute. Feb. 13th: Superstar - A Salute to Luther Vandross. Feb. 26th - March 1st: Centerstage presents "Newsies". March 7th: American English - Beatles Tribute. Visit thebeverlyarts-center.com or by calling (773) 445-3838.

Looking to Buy Your First Home?

The Greater Southwest Development Corp., 2601 W. 63rd st. will conduct a First Time Homebuyers Class on Saturday, Jan. 24th from 9 a.m. o 2 p.m.

Participants will learn about: The home buying process, How to get qualified, Down payment assistance programs, Financing options and The closing process.

Register at greater-southwest.org or call (773) 436-1000.

Ridge Library Plans Programs

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

KIDS

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

Stories & Songs on Wednesdays, Jan. 28th; Feb. 4th, 11th & 25th from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Ages 1-3.5 years. Children will listen to stoirses, sing songs and move to music. Play time follows.

Winter Play Day on Monday, Jan. 26th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Ages 18 months to 4 years. Kids can color, build puzzles, play with trains and cars.

Children's LEGO Club on Saturday, Feb. 14th from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For ages 5 & up.

It's Time for Baby! on Mondays, Feb. 2nd & 9th from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., ages 0-15 months. Listen to a story, sing some songs, and share a little about yourself and your child.

Play Day for ages 18 months to 4 years on Wednesday, Feb. 18th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Trucks, trains, puzzles, Bingo dabbers, blocks, and early learning toys.

Valentine Crafts for ages 3 to 8 on Saturday, Feb. 7th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Make a Valentine's card, decorate a heart for our bulletin board and color on our Valentine's Day tablecloth.

Quilting 101 for ages 6 & up on Saturdays, Jan. 24th; Feb. 7th - 21st from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children and their parents will create a fabric and paper patchwork piece inspired by quilts from the Art Institute of Chicago.

LEGO Club: "Planes" for ages 8 to 13 on Saturday, Feb. 21st at 11 a.m. Learn about the *Flying Black*

Mechanics. Each child receives one kit to build and keep.

TEENS

Teen Designs: Beanies on Friday, Jan. 30th at 2:45 p.m. Use the vinyl cutter and heat transfer vinyl to customize your beanie.

ADULTS

Games People Play is scheduled for Thursdays through March 12th and Sundays, March 22nd & 29th from 2 to 4 p.m. Bring your own games or borrow one of ours - Chess, Scrabble, UNO, Board games, cards, Pinochle, Canasta and more. On Jan. 29th, play Rummy 500 and enjoy light refreshments.

Senior Drop-In Games Saturdays through May 30th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a game or borrow some of ours.

"Make a Vision Board" on Saturday, Jan. 31st from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We'll use magazines, stickers, and quotes to create a vision board. Registration required.

Reverse Coloring for Adults on Saturday, Jan. 24th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Reverse coloring combines traditional coloring and doodling with the pre-colored abstract pages. With just a black pen, you can create beautiful designs. Regular coloring pages and puzzles will also be available.

New Device Advice on Tuesdays, Jan. 27th from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Program for seniors and adults who want simple help with technology.

The adult book club meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. Feb. 19th topic is "The Husbands" by Holly Garamzio and March 12th is "Starter Villain" by John Scalzi.

Games People Play: Valentine Edition on Thursday, Feb. 5th from 2 to 4 p.m. Play the fun dice game, Left Center Right, using chocolate kisses in place of money. Wear something red, white or pink. Refreshments included.

FAMILIES

The Artist's Studio at the Library will present "Quilting 101" for ages 6 & up on Saturdays, Jan. 24th; Feb. 7th & 21st and March 7th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Children and their parents will create a fabric and paper patchwork piece inspired by quilts from the Art Institute of Chicago. Families are welcome to attend multiple sessions and are encouraged to leave their project at the library to be put on display.

Register for events at chipublib.org/events.

Map Fest At Newberry Library



Photo provided by Newberry Library

The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton will feature "All About Maps!" on Saturday, Jan. 24th from 12 to 3 p.m.

Celebrate with collection presentations, hands-on activities, tours, a mini used book sale, and so much more at this open house event.

View extraordinary maps and related items from our collections and have your questions answered by expert librarians and curators.

Learn from our map curator about how to find and enjoy materials in

our collection from 12 to 12:30 p.m.

Make your own map-inspired art through collage and papermaking in Ruggles Hall from 1 to 3 p.m.

Visit our latest exhibitions, "Mapping Outside the Lines" and "From Page to Pixel: Discovering the Digital Newberry."

Join a docent-led building tour to learn about the library's nearly 140-year history.

Shop our used book sale, which offers literary treasures at low prices.

Visit newberry.org

Radon Action Contest Opens

During Radon Action Month, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security and the American Lung Association in Illinois encourage families and schools to talk about radon and its dangerous effects.

School-age students are urged to enter artwork into the statewide awareness poster and video contests.

High school students can enter a 30-second commercial-style video, while middle school students can enter a poster that encourages radon testing. Submissions are being accepted through March 15th

Radon test kits are discounted for residents in Illinois and can be purchased at Lung.org/radontest, by calling (800) 325-1245 or at most hardware and department stores. It is recommended to start with a short-term test kit, which typically takes 2-7 days to complete. Should you find radon levels at or above the Environmental Protection Agency action level of 4.0 pCi/L, you should contact the Radon HelpLine at 800-325-1245 for guidance.

The Poster Contest for ages 9-14 offers a first prize of \$200, second prize of \$150 and third prize of \$100. The Video Contest for high school students offers first prize of \$600,

second prize of \$500, third prize of \$400 and most views of \$200.

For more information, visit <https://iemaohs.illinois.gov/nrs/radon/radon-contest.html>.

Polar Adventure At Northerly Isle

The Chicago Park District will conduct Polar Adventure Day at Northerly Island Park, 1521 S. Linn White dr. on Saturday, Jan. 24th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Enjoy husky sled dog and live demonstrations, art & crafts, nature play and warm up with hot cocoa by the bonfire.

Visit chicagoparkdistrict.com, for updates and weather details.

Girls Day At West Lawn Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Girls Day of P.L.A.Y. at West Lawn Park, 4233 W. 65th st. on Tuesday, Feb. 17th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This free event during a public-school day out of school features sports, arts and crafts and fun. Participant should pack a lunch, reusable water bottle and snack.

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Real Estate For Sale
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NEWREZ LLC d/b/a SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff, -v- WILLIE WESLEY, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS. Defendants. 2024CH09662
8149 S Harvard Ave, Chicago, IL 60620
NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 11/3/2025, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 2/2/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on February 4, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.
Commonly known as 8149 S Harvard Ave, Chicago, IL 60620
Property Index No. 20-33-217-017-0000
The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence. The judgment amount was \$127,101.73 Sale Terms: Full Sale
Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 8149 S Harvard Ave into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g)-1. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: Kluver Law Group, LLC (312) 236-0077 please refer to file number SM5001236-24FC1. Auction.com d/b/a SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff, -v- WILLIE WESLEY, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS. Defendants. 2024CH09662 NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFFS' ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 15279491

Law at Library
Online Series

The Chicago Bar Association, Chicago Public Library, and Evanston Public Library are offering free monthly virtual information series to answer legal questions and provide practical resources and insights into today's legal issues.
The Wednesday, Feb. 18th topic is "Tenant and Landlord Rights" from 6 to 7 p.m.
This event takes place on Zoom. Register at least 24 hours in advance at chipublib.org. You'll receive an email link to the secure Zoom meeting about 24 hours before the meeting. Automatic transcription is included.



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Gage Park Library
Schedules Programs

The Gage Park Branch Library, 2807 W. 55th st., has scheduled exciting programs for all ages. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Call (312) 747-0032 or visit www.chipublib.org for more information and to register for the following programs.

- CHILDREN**
Afterschool Fun on Thursdays through March 19th from 4 to 5 p.m. Listen to music, play board games, do puzzles or enjoy the weekly craft.
Popcorn Reading on Thursdays, Jan. 22nd, Feb. 5th to 19th, March 5th to 19th from 5 to 6 p.m. Practice your reading skills at our read aloud group. Snacks are provided. For ages 6 and up.
- TEENS**
Teen Resume Workshop on Sunday, Jan. 25th from 2 to 3 p.m. We'll help you edit the current version to fit your goals. Registration required.
- ADULTS**
3D Modeling with Tinkercad on Saturdays, Feb. 7th & 21st and March 7th from 1 to 2 p.m. The focus will be on designing a keychain to print and take home.

\$5.29 Family Day At
Children’s Museum

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs and Chicago Children's Museum are partnering to host a \$5.29 Family Day on Sunday, Jan. 25th. Sponsored by Bright Start 529 College Savings, general admission to the museum will be discounted to \$5.29 person. Tickets are available at www.ChicagoChildrensMuseum.org.
Children can decorate their own piggy bank to take home in the Little Savers Crafting Workshop. The activity is offered free of charge and is designed to spark age-appropriate conversations with children about saving, goal setting and planning for their financial future. Families are also encouraged to speak with the Bright Start 529 team about how a 529 account can help achieve college savings goals.
Bright Start 529 is a tax-advantaged investment account that can be used to save for higher education, including universities, community colleges, technical and vocational schools, registered apprenticeship programs, graduate and professional schools.
Since 2015, Frerichs has worked to reduce plan fees which ensures more

investment dollars go to college savings. The Illinois First Steps program, offers a one-time \$50 seed deposit to the Illinois 529 account of eligible children born or adopted in 2023 or later. More information, including how to open an account, can be found at BrightStart.com.

Career Showcase
At Griffin MSI

Griffin Museum of Science and Industry's features a Career Showcase will features artists, scientists and engineers on Saturday, Feb. 14th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to highlight education and career opportunities in STE(A)M fields. Guests can have conversations, observe demonstrations on various concepts and engage in activities. Included with general admission.
Join select artists behind the works in the Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition for an after-hours, adults-only party on Friday, March 20th from 6 to 10 p.m. The night includes music, dancing, food and drinks. Tickets are \$35.
For more information, visit griffinmsi.org.

Obituaries



MARIA OLGA CARDENAS (nee Gutierrez), wife of Felipe Cardenas Sr.; mother of Maria Olga Cardenas, MD, Yolanda Cardenas, MD, Gerardo Cardenas and late Felipe Cardenas Jr.; daughter of late Margarita (nee Tapia) & late Jose Refugio Gutierrez; sister of Gerardo (Ofelia) Gutierrez, Cuca (late Pedro) Enriquez, Margarita (late Juan) Arreola, Yolanda (Serafin) Gonzalez, Genaro (Juana) Gutierrez, Engracia (Horacio) Orazco, Angeles (Mark) Mederich, Elena (John) Giesbrecht, Maria Lupita (Joe) Horvath, late David Gutierrez, and late Manuel Gutierrez. Visitation was held Jan. 21st at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, 5088 S. Archer. Funeral services will be held Thursday, Jan. 22nd at 8:45 a.m. to St. Richard Church for 10 a.m. Mass. Inurnment will be at Mt. Auburn Cemetery.



SOFIA CONTRERAS who was born on Sept. 5th, 1942, passed away on Jan. 19th at the age of 83. Visitation will be held Saturday, Jan. 24th from 3 to 8 p.m. at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer ave.; Jonathan Siedlecki, owner-director.



WAYNE R MARTIN of McKinley Park, husband of late Diane A. Martin (nee Moskal); son of late Genevieve (nee Radecka) & late Clifton Martin; brother of Barbara (late James) Houtsma, late Marty (late Joyce) Martin and late Clinton Martin; uncle of Paul (Johnette) Palumbo, late Brian Martin, Jennifer Martin and Matthew Zintek.
Visitation will be held Thursday, Jan. 29th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, 8999 S. Archer ave., Willow Springs. Funeral services will follow. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery.

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.
The Southwest Collective community box is available for patrons to take or leave toiletries and non-perishable food items.
Toddler Story Time, ages 18 months to 3 yrs on Mondays at 11 a.m.
Middle School Gaming for 5th to 8th graders on Mondays at 4:30 p.m.
Family Story Time for ages 2 to 6 years on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Baby Story Time for ages 18 months on Wednesdays at 11 a.m.
Lego Club for 6 years and up on Thursdays at

Chinatown Library
Schedules Programs

The Chinatown Branch Library, 2100 S. Wentworth ave. has scheduled interesting programs.
Family Story Time on Thursdays through Feb. 5th, Feb. 19th through March 26th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Support your child's pre-literacy skills through songs, stories and play. For ages to 5 and their caregivers.
Multilingual Playgroup on Fridays Jan. 23rd, Feb. 6th & 20th and March 6th & 20th from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For children who speak Mandarin or Cantonese Chinese. For ages to 5 and their caregivers.
Family Game Day on Mondays, Jan. 26th, Feb. 23rd and March 9th & 23rd from 4 to 5 p.m.
Family STEAM Day: "Shadows" for ages 6 to 13 on Thursday, Jan. 29th from 4 to 5 p.m. Craft materials will be provided.
Parachute Play on Fridays, Jan. 30th, Feb. 13th & 27th, March 13th & 27th from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Songs, stories and movement for ages to 3 with their caregiver.
Drop In TTRPG Time for high school teens on Saturday, Jan. 31st from 3 to 4 p.m. Table-Top Role Playing Games, for "Honey Heist", where players take on the roles of bears trying to get

away with honey. No experience necessary, all materials will be provided.
Bad Bunny Karaoke for adults on Monday, Feb. 2nd from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy photo ops and refreshments.
Tween Club on Thursday, Feb. 5th & 19th, March 5th & 19th from 4 to 5 p.m. An after-school session to do homework, participate in a craft, enjoy a snack, or socialize.
Game On: Board Game Play for ages 13 & up on the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Arts and Crafts for ages 3 to 13 on Sundays, Feb. 8th & March 8th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
ESL: English Conversation Circle for adults on Saturday, Feb. 21st from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn to be more confident speaking in English, gain new vocabulary and meet new people.
Book Swap for adults on Sunday, Feb. 22nd from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Bring up to 3 books to swap and find your next read!
LEGO at the Library for ages 5 & up on Thursday, Feb. 26th from 4 to 5 p.m. Drop in for some design challenges and open play time with our collection.
Registration is suggested at (312) 747-8013.

Income Tax Season
Opens Jan. 26th

The Illinois Department of Revenue announced that it will begin accepting 2026 individual income tax returns on Monday, Jan. 26th, the same day the Internal Revenue Service opens the federal filing season. The deadline to file Illinois returns is Wednesday, April 15th.
Taxpayers are encouraged to file their returns electronically and choose direct deposit to receive refunds as quickly and securely as possible.
During the 2025 filing season, IDOR received over 6.3 million individual income tax returns. About 5.75 million, or 91.3 percent, were filed electronically. Taxpayers who file accurate returns electronically and select direct deposit can typically receive their refunds in about four weeks.
MyTax Illinois is a free online filing option that allows taxpayers to file with or without an account. The system guides users through a question-and-answer process, performs calculations automatically, and reduces errors by using pre-populated information when available. In addition to filing, MyTax Illinois allows users to:
Make payments, Respond to department inquiries, Check the status of refunds via Where's My Refund?, Look up IL-PINs, estimated tax payments, and Form 1099-G information.
Taxpayers may also file using tax software, a tax professional, or paper Form IL-1040.
Taxpayers should review their eligibility for tax credits that can reduce the amount of tax owed or increase a refund. Commonly claimed cred-

its include the Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit, the Property Tax Credit, and the K-12 Education Expense Credit, among others.
IDOR provides assistance by phone for tax-related questions, with automated options for checking refund status, identifying IL-PINs, or accessing estimated payments. Taxpayers may call 1-800-732-8866 or 217-782-3336. Free language assistance is available for Limited English Proficiency individuals.
For information, forms, schedules, and instructions for the 2026 tax season, visit tax.illinois.gov.

Police Beat 912
Plans Meeting

The Chicago Police Department 9th District will conduct a public meeting for Beat 912 at the McKinley Park Field House, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Wednesday, Feb. 11th from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
The semi-monthly meeting provides an opportunity meet beat officers, discuss problems and crime conditions, review crime statistics and learn crime reduction strategies.
For additional information contact the Community Policing office at (312) 747-3501 or email caps.009district@chicago.police.org.

Heritage Museum
of Asian Art



Photo provided by Heritage Museum of Asian Art

The Heritage Museum of Asian Art, 3500 S. Morgan st., (312) 842-8884, info@heritageasianart.org has interesting exhibits.
Free admission museum night runs on Friday, Jan. 23rd from 5 to 8 p.m. The museum tour begins at 6 p.m.
Rotating pop-up exhibitions will highlight how these traditions continue to inspire creativity.
"Obsessive Eyes" Mayumi Lake Artist Talk on Jan. 24th, 2 to 4 p.m. Join artist Mayumi Lake

for an intimate artist talk exploring, her ongoing body of work spanning photography, sculpture, and installation.
Chinese Puppetry: Performance & Workshop on Jan. 31st, 3 to 5 p.m., \$15. Step into the world of Rugao rod puppetry, a 2,000 year old art form. Enjoy a vibrant performance filled with music, movement, and masterful puppet techniques.
For more information and tickets visit www.heritageasianart.org. (312) 842-8884.

Back of the Yards
Schedules Programs

The Back of the Yards Branch Library, 2111 W. 47th st. has scheduled the following events.
ADULTS
Adult Book Club will discuss "Klara and the Sun" by Kazuo Ishiguro on Thursday, Feb. 19th from 6 to 7 p.m. Title is available in English and Spanish.
Film Screening of "Stardust" (2007) on Friday, Jan. 28th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tristan hopes to win the heart of his beautiful, but shallow love, Victoria. He promises to recover a star that fell somewhere beyond the stony Wall that sets between the mundane England and the fantasy kingdom of Stormhold. © Universal Studios - 127 Minutes - MPAA Rating: PG-13
TEENS
Teen Winter Art Making on Thursdays through Jan. 29th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Use our supplies and space as your studio for the Winter Art Challenge.
CHILDREN
Bilingual Story Time, Saturdays, through Jan.

31st from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. We'll share songs, rhymes and books, plus craft activities in English and Spanish. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers.
Chess Club on Monday, Jan. 26th from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. All levels of players are welcome, for ages 8 to 17.
Science Connections on Wednesday, Jan. 28th from 4 to 5 p.m. Join Ms. Corina and Ms. Maria for STEM (science, technology, engineering, or math) activities. Kids 6 to 13 years.
Visit chipublib.org to register.

Gamer’s Universe
Showdown Series

YOUmedia will conduct the Gamer's Universe Showdown Series at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State st. on Saturday, Jan. 31st from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Join us for Gamer's Universe Showdown Series, our monthly esports celebration leading up to the 2026 edition of Gamer's Universe.
The Chicago Teen Gamer's Guild will run monthly tournaments showcasing a variety of competitive games.
SquidWest will host Splatoon 3 locals. Participants must bring their switch, copy of the game, headset, and controller.
A variety of free-play stations will feature competitive and non-competitive games.
Registration is not required for any of the tournaments or activities.
All ages and skill levels are welcome.
Mario Kart 8 Tournament begins at 12 p.m., and a 2nd tournament will start at 2 p.m.

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