



## Let's Follow Louisiana



By Dr. R. Pletsch

Many states like to judge the success of its school system by using standardized tests. The National Association of Educational Progress (NAEP) is used by many states and districts to help those in charge to estimate their school's success. In the elementary schools, 4th and 8th grade students are tested in a variety of subjects and those results are examined and used to help many districts to decide "how to improve".

The NAEP produces a significant amount of data to be analyzed. Those assigned this task are often paid by the districts and no matter what your school's score, you can usually find something to build upon. Some may find a silver lining while others will not. The fact is, the scores are raw scores with no comments about the reason. This makes it easier to compare school to school.

Many of us that have been given the responsibility of preparing the data to help improve the

scores the following year, often do best by not looking at scores of schools they have an investment in. This is why I decided to share the results from 4th grade Reading tests in the state of Louisiana. It is not thought of by many in Chicago that Louisiana is a state with a great school system and not a place you hear of people moving to for the schools. Yet it is the only state that the 4th graders Reading scores are higher in 2024 than they were in 2019.

Cade Brumly, the State Superintendent of Education in Louisiana, has provided the time and leadership to help the teachers to improve the scores of their students.

The Superintendent helped form committees from around the state to help show the K-3 teachers the science of teaching Reading. The Legislature passed a bill prohibiting the use of cell phones throughout the instructional day. With these efforts and others, the state of Louisiana led the nation in Reading growth and they were fifth in the nation for Math score improvement.

We should look to these states that are improving to find what they are doing that we could copy. No one program works for all, but if a system works, they probably are doing something that can be used by schools in Illinois. You never know when or where the next great idea will come from. We just can't be too proud to ask our colleagues what they are doing great.

## Egg Hunt At West Lawn Park



Photo provided by Chicago Park District

The Chicago Park District will conduct Egg Hunt at West Lawn Park, 4233 W. 65th st. on Saturday, April 12th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ages 3 through 12 will enjoy a fun-filled Egg Hunt with games, prizes and a picture with the Bunny.

## Calls For Property Tax Predictability

The Cook County Assessor's Office hosted its annual Market Investor Day event on Wednesday, April 2nd, with Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi and outside panelists discussing the need for better predictability in the Cook County property tax system.

"Let's think about how much better our situation would be if we could put changes in place that would provide greater predictability," said Assessor Kaegi. "The system that many of us work in and that all of us interact with is one where commercial property owners keep on filing appeals. And these appeals, on the whole, don't improve outcomes." Assessor Kaegi noted

that the Assessor's Office has already begun implementing recommendations from a recent commercial sales ratio study, published by the Cook County Property Tax Reform Group, that showed commercial properties in Cook County are generally underassessed.

These include implementation of an estimated tax rate in commercial valuations and more data-sharing between the Assessor's Office and the Cook County Board of Review.

Staff from the Assessor's Valuations department presented their work in valuing commercial property, such as data centers and multifamily buildings, as well as the valuation reports that show the metrics used in the CCAO's assessments for commercial properties by township.

For more information visit, <https://www.cook-countyassessor.com/>

### Workshop For Job Seekers

The Jeffery Manor Branch Library will conduct an online job seeker workshop on Thursday, April 24th from 3 to 4 p.m. Register at [jefferymanor@chipublib.org](mailto:jefferymanor@chipublib.org).

## Court of Honor For Scout Troop 1441



Boy Scout Troop 1441 sponsored by St. Mary Star of the Sea Holy Name Society, held their Court of Honor to recognize their members achievements. Scout Sunday patches were given to youth and adult members who participated in this annual event. Merit badges and Rank advancement were also presented. Any boys from any school, ages 11 to 17 who are interested in Scouting can have a parent contact Ed Melkonian at (312) 316-5825 (for English) or Angie Kozel at (773) 851-7855 (for Spanish) for further information. Pictured in front row are Ian Hernandez, Leo Kozel, Andres Burgos, Lucas Kozel and Alexi Ayala. Back row: Ed Melkonian (Asst. Scout Master), Angie Kozel (Troop Treasurer), Adan Moreno, Heriberto Bugos (Committee Member), Gabriel Hernandez, Luis Burgos (Patrol Leader), Conrad Zadlo (Committee Member) and John Massura (Scout Master).

## Seek Proposals For Vacant Properties

More than 400 parcels of vacant land are being made available by the City of Chicago for purchase and redevelopment, including 54 lots being offered for Missing Middle housing on the Far South Side, a CTA site to be used for mixed-income housing in Lake View, and more than nine acres of industrial land for mixed-uses in Armour Square and New City.

"Being marketed on the ChiBlockBuilder.com website, the properties are collectively valued at \$26 million and represent some of the best private investment opportunities in the entire city," Mayor Johnson said.

The Missing Middle lots are part of a Department of Planning and Development infill housing initiative launched last year in North Lawndale. Intended for one- to six-unit, market-rate residential buildings, the 54 City-owned properties are being sold as 11 separate clusters in Morgan Park, Chatham and South Chicago. Potential development incentives include up to \$150,000 in financial assistance per unit and the sale of each lot for \$1. Applications are due May 15th.

The .46-acre CTA parcel at 3214-54 N. Wilton Ave. is adjacent to the Belmont Avenue transit station, where it has been used for construction-related staging since 2006. Federal transit guidelines require at least 40% of future units to be affordable for tenants earning 30% to 60% of the area median income.

Valued at \$4.3 million, the site's recommended zoning is B2-3. Potential

development incentives include a discounted purchase price and donation tax credits for applications submitted through ChiBlockBuilder by June 30th. Proposals alternatively seeking Low-Income Housing Tax Credits through the Department of Housing's 2025 Qualified Allocation Plan can review deadline instructions when the QAP is published.

A .95-acre, City-owned parcel at 466 W. Cermak Road includes more than 200 feet of river frontage within the Pilsen Industrial Corridor. Current PMD (Subarea B) zoning permits redevelopment for commercial, industrial, restaurant, grocery, office, artist workspaces and other uses. The site is valued at approximately \$1.16 million. Submissions are due June 30th.

An 8.2-acre, City-owned parcel at 1924 W. 46th St. is located within the Stockyards Industrial Corridor. Current C3-2 zoning permits business support services, urban farms, construction sales and service, restaurants, retail, grocery, offices, sports and recreation facilities, clean manufacturing and other uses. The site is valued at \$3.3 million. Submissions are due June 30th.

Nearly 350 additional lots are available through ChiBlockBuilder for private purchase, either for new commercial, residential, mixed-use construction, as well as side yards, open space and urban agriculture. Applications for vacant lots are due May 16th or June 30th.

For site details and application information, visit [ChiblockBuilder.com](http://ChiblockBuilder.com).

## New Arrivals At Brookfield Zoo Chicago



Photo credit Brookfield Zoo Chicago

Several new babies were born, hatched and morphed at Brookfield Zoo Chicago since January, including Humboldt penguin chicks, a nyala antelope calf and a Western gray kangaroo joey.

Humboldt penguins are native to the western coastline of South America near Peru and Chile.

A Nyala antelope calf was born on Feb. 25th to Zola, an experienced mom. The female calf is expected to make its debut at *Habitat Africa! The Savannah* in May.

Kartika, an experienced mom, in the *Clouded Leopard Rain Forest* is nearing the end of a 90-day gestation period after which binturongs usually give birth to two bintlets.

Six Emperor spotted news hatched in January. These small amphibians are known to only one location in the wild: a spring-fed pool in

the Zagros Mountains of Iran. They start as aquatic larvae with gills then metamorphose into terrestrial juveniles.

The Lake Titicaca frog population laid eggs on habitat in *Reptiles & Birds* in January. The eggs were then moved for monitoring by animal care experts, resulting in five metamorphosed frogs that guests can expect to see this spring.

The Zoo's *Reptile & Birds* aviary will soon see two saffron finches hatched on Jan. 14th. These small yellow birds are native to South America.

Two silver-beaked tanagers that are native to South America hatched on Feb. 23rd.

A Western Gray Kangaroo joey born at Brookfield Zoo can be seen at the *Australia* habitat later in the summer.

Guests can learn more about these species and more than 500 others while visiting Brookfield Zoo Chicago. More information is available at [brookfieldzoo.org/visit](http://brookfieldzoo.org/visit).

### Egg Decorating At Balzekas Museum

The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski will conduct an Easter egg Decorating workshop on Saturday, April 12th from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Participants will learn the traditional wax-resist technique to create intricate designs.

This hands-on workshop will be led by Sigita Balzekas and provide all necessary supplies, along with light refreshments. Participants must bring four hard-boiled white eggs for decoration. This workshop is not recommended for children under 12 years of age.

The cost is \$25 for non-members and \$15 for youth, ages 12+. Advance registration is required at <https://balzekasmuseum.org/>.

### Easter Adventures At Playground

EnVision will conduct an "Easter Bunny Adventure" at Brighton Park II Elementary, James Shield Middle School playground area, 2611 W. 48th st. on Saturday, April 19th at 11 a.m. The family-friendly event will feature egg hunts, photos with the Easter bunny, face painting, crafts, games and prizes.

Founded in 2011, Envision specializes in Workforce development, Public Health, Education and Restorative Justice. For more information, visit [envisions.org](http://envisions.org).

### Registration For Summer Day Camp

The Chicago Park District will conduct Summer Day Camp June 23rd through Aug. 1st. Programs can be viewed online at [chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com). Online registration begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 14th for programs at parks located west of California ave. and Tuesday, April 15th for programs at parks located east of California ave.

In-person registration will be accepted Saturday, April 19th or Monday, April 21st for most parks.

### Anti-Cruelty Plans Fundraiser

BARK is Anti-Cruelty's largest fundraising event to help shelter, feed and care for more than 20,000 animals this year.

In the months leading up to the Pooch Party at Lincoln Park Grove 2 on May 31st, participants form their team and raise money, culminating in a festival. The big event begins with a 2-mile walk followed by a pup party with food, beverages, music, family activities and demonstrations.

Attendees join as fundraisers, with your \$50 ticket included in your campaign total. Register at <https://bark2025.funraise.org/>

## Assessor Explains Tax Exemptions

Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi reminds senior homeowners to apply for their property tax-saving exemptions before the April 21st deadline.

Exemptions provide homeowners savings on their property tax bill. Senior homeowners are eligible for two main exemptions:

The Senior Exemption is available to those 65 years of age or older who occupy their property as their principal place of residence. This exemption automatically renews every year.

"Senior Freeze" Exemption is available to all who receive the Senior Exemption and had an annual household income of \$65,000 or less in 2023. Homeowners must reapply for this exemption every year.

The Cook County Assessor's Office has mailed out application booklets to all homeowners that received the "Senior Freeze" last year and need to reapply.

Homeowners can also apply online for their exemptions at [www.cook-countyassessor.com/exemptions](http://www.cook-countyassessor.com/exemptions).

Homeowners are encouraged to apply online so staff can easily locate the application, provide a status update, and notify the homeowner if missing documents are needed.

This year, anyone



Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi

reapplying online for the "Senior Freeze" Exemption will have access to a streamlined application form.

If homeowners are unsure of their existing exemptions, they can review the "Exemptions History & Status" section of the "Property Details" page for their home.

Exemptions forms are available in Spanish, Polish, and simplified Chinese languages. Applications can be downloaded at [www.cook-countyassessor.com/exemptions](http://www.cook-countyassessor.com/exemptions).

For a list of upcoming in-person and virtual outreach events, visit [www.cook-countyassessor.com/event-list](http://www.cook-countyassessor.com/event-list).

## U.S. Attorney For Northern District

Andrew S. Boutros, who served as a federal prosecutor in Chicago for nearly eight years before entering private law practice, took the Oath of Office on April 7th as the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

U.S. District Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall administered the Oath of Office after Attorney General Pamela Bondi made the appointment.

As an Assistant U.S. Attorney from 2008 to 2015, Mr. Boutros investigated and prosecuted hundreds of cases, many of which involved matters of national and international significance. His notable convictions included the world's largest online drug trafficker on the dark web, one of the country's "Top Ten Most Wanted" mortgage fraud defendants, and the owner of a Chicago hospital who thwarted collection of more than \$188 million in civil judgments. A series of cases involving criminal violations of international trade, customs, and anti-dumping laws were also prosecuted.

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association selected him as the National Prosecutor of the Year and the American Bar Association honored Boutros with the Criminal Justice Section's Norm Maleng Minister of Justice Award. Honors were also received from the FBI, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Since 2015, Boutros worked in private law practice in Chicago, holding various leadership roles. For 15 years, he taught an advanced criminal law course at the University of Chicago Law School, written extensively on criminal law and criminal law, published two books, authored nearly 160 articles and presented 90 speaking engagements.

His bachelor's degree was received summa cum laude from Virginia Tech and law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

### Applications For Preschool 2025-26

Many Chicago Public Schools welcomed families interested in exploring the District's free full-day preschool program for four-year-olds and half-day preschool program for three-year-olds. The School Year 2025-26 application opened, April 8th, on the Chicago Early Learning website and application portal at [www.cps.edu/ChicagoEarlyLearning/](http://www.cps.edu/ChicagoEarlyLearning/).

Various schools across the District will be hosting open houses and reading nights the Week of April 8th to offer families the opportunity to learn more about preschool offerings.

More information is available at <https://www.cps.edu/schools/grade-levels-served/pre-k/>. Parents may also call the Chicago Early Learning Hotline at (312) 229-1690 for application support in both English and Spanish.

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.

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## Ridge Library Plans Programs

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

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.

An in-person screening of the Mather's Grow-It Together Garden Program is scheduled for Wednesdays, April 9th, May 14th and June 11th from 1 to 2 p.m. This on-line garden club is for adults 50 years and older who are interested in hydroponic gardening. Experience the joys of gardening with fresh herbs and vegetables in the comfort of your home with Grow-It-Together Garden Kits. Registration for kits is currently on backorder. You can still attend club meetings even if you do not have a kit.

"Games People Play" will be offered for adults on Thursdays through May 29th from 2 to 4 p.m. Bring your own games or use one of ours. Featuring chess, Scrabble, UNO, board games, Pinochle and Canasta.

The Poet's Corner is a place to recite your original poems or read a favorite poets' work on Saturday, April 26th at 2 p.m. Participants will receive a writing prompt to work on for the next session. We will focus on the poetry of Mary Oliver and copies of her books will be available to check out. Copies of various poets are available to examine and take home. Share your writing process and what inspires.

Senior Drop-In Games will be played on Saturdays through May 31st from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a game or borrow some of ours.

The Adult Book Club will meet on Thursday, April 10th at 6 p.m. to discuss "American Midnight" by Adam Hochschild.

Design a Spring Tote Bag for your books (adults and seniors) is scheduled for Saturday, April 12th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Supplies will be provided. Space is limited, registration required.

### Lawyers Offer Phone Advice

The Chicago Bar Association is reminding the public that attorneys are available to provide legal assistance online or over the telephone.

The CBA sponsors a monthly "Call A Lawyer" program through the Lawyer Referral Service, making attorneys available to take calls from the public. On Saturday, April 19th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, the public may call (312) 554-2001 and explain their situation to an attorney.

These services can also be accessed on CBA's website at [www.chicagobar.org](http://www.chicagobar.org).

## 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.

Art as Expressions of Liberation is the topic for Saturday, April 12th at 3 p.m. Admission is free. Filmmaker Evangeline E. Griego will answer questions after screening her 30-minute documentary film, "Paño Arte: Images from Inside" (1996). Chicana Professor Karen Mary Davalos, PhD, will examine how paño art is a pillar of Chicano art artist Maria Gaspar will present her latest work based on Cook County Jail. There will be a musical segment with Thadeus Tukes.

Músicas Al Frente: An Intimate Conversation with Rocio Santos featuring Vivir Quintana will be held on Wednesday, April 16th at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Frida Kahlo the Bravest Girl in the World will be performed on Saturday, April 19th at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Admission is free. This event is in partnership with the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

A free screening of "Going Varsity in Marachi" is offered on Saturday, April 26th at 3 p.m.

An Evening with Vivir Quintana on Friday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Known for her iconic anthems like "Cancion Sin Miedo", Vivir's songs amplify voices, inspire change and celebrate resilience.

Puntadas del Alma Told Through Quilts will open in Xicago Gallery on Friday, April 11th. Stitches of the Soul is a collective of women who share stories and create quilts.

The annual Gala de Arte will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago on Friday, May 2nd. Themed "Orgullo Mexicano" (Mexican Pride), the black-tie fundraiser is presented by the Museum's Board of Trustees. The event generates funding to support an art museum and cultural landmark. Visit [national-museumofmexicanart.org/events/galadearte](http://national-museumofmexicanart.org/events/galadearte) to learn more and to reserve tickets.

Viva la Vida, a monthly workshop series

tailored for creative agers ages 55+ are invited to join us on Thursday, April 24th from 1 to 3 p.m. for an immersive experience in the galleries followed by an art-making activity. Coffee and treats will be provided from local establishments. This program is free, but registration is required.

ImaginArte: Summer Camp for ages 7 to 12 feature Mexican art, culture and performing arts June 23rd to July 25th, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information or to reserve, email [angela@national-museumofmexicanart.org](mailto:angela@national-museumofmexicanart.org)

Most programs are free of charge; however, registration is required at email [angela@national-museumofmexicanart.org](mailto:angela@national-museumofmexicanart.org)

### Chicago Scholars Seeks Volunteers

Each year, Chicago Scholars receives more than 1,000 applications from prospective college students with around 800 progressing to the interview stage of the program application process.

Volunteers are needed to assist the Dream Team, conduct interviews and select the new Scholar Class of 2030.

Virtual Interview dates are April 12th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In-Person interview dates are April 14th to 17th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Volunteer sign-up links can be found at [getinvolved@chicagoscholars.org](mailto:getinvolved@chicagoscholars.org).

### Application For Jumping Jack

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events will accept applications for the Jumping Jack program to use at Summer Block Parties beginning Tuesday, April 15th.

The program runs on Saturday and Sundays from May 24th through Aug. 31st. To apply, visit [ChicagoNeighborhood-Feativals.us](http://ChicagoNeighborhood-Feativals.us).

### Bunny Breakfast At Lincoln Park

The Lincoln Park Cultural Center, 2045 N. Lincoln Park West will conduct Breakfast with the Bunny on Saturday, April 19th from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Activities include breakfast, crafts and pictures with the bunny. Registration is at [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/events/breakfast-bunny-lincoln-0](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/events/breakfast-bunny-lincoln-0).

### Application For ASM Programs

Chicago teens ages 14 to 18 are encouraged to apply for an After School Matters program that runs through May 10th. Participants will learn new skills, make friends and earn money for their time.

Programs feature Latin Dance, plumbing, sewing, community organizing and more. Visit [afterschoolmatters.org/](http://afterschoolmatters.org/) apply.

### Girls Softball At Hoyne Park

Omega Delta Baseball and Softball will sponsor a Girls Softball league for ages 7 to 18 at Hoyne Park, 3417 S. Hamilton beginning April 26th.

For more information, contact Danny Gaichas, League Director, call (773) 851-2213 or email [dgaichas@kemper.com](mailto:dgaichas@kemper.com)

## 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).

### CHILDREN

Let's Make 2nd Tuesdays at 4 p.m. For ages 8 to 12.

LEGO Club Mondays at 4 p.m. through May 19th, ages 5 and up.

Family Story Time for children 0 to 5 and their caregivers will be offered on Thursdays through May 15th from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Start your day with stories, songs and fun.

Popcorn Reading for ages 6 and up on Wednesdays, May 7th and 14th from 6 to 7 p.m. Practice your reading skills at our read aloud group. Snacks are provided.

"I Can Do It" Preschool Story Time on Saturday, April 26th at 11 a.m. Join us with your preschooler to grow their practical life skills in this Montessori-inspired program. Fir kids 3 to 5 and their caregivers.

Let's Make 1st Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Join us for a new craft each month. All materials will be provided. For kids 8 to 12. May 6th: Mini Koinobori - Japanese Carp Streamers.

### TEENS

Do you need community services hours? Ask about our Teen Volunteer Program.

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.

Craft Squad on Wednesday, May 7th at 4 p.m. Come in to work on a new craft each week. Materials and snacks will be provided.

For ages 10 - 18 April 23rd and May 14th. Work 'n Waffles Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Visit our homework spaces for snacks, a place to talk and ask the

### DoIT Month In Illinois

Governor JB Pritzker has proclaimed the month of April as Innovation and Technology Month, underscoring the significance of IT and the efforts to establish the state as a thriving innovation and technology hub.

In recognition of its growing importance, World Quantum Day will be celebrated on April 14th. On Saturday, April 12th, the Illinois Quantum Information Science and Technology Center at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will host activities and events to increase understanding about quantum technology and discoveries.

The proclamation emphasizes Illinois' commitment to expanding STEM initiatives, supporting broadband access in K-12 public schools, and promoting career and technical education programs that prepare students for IT-related careers.

teen librarian for help.

Visit our homework space for snacks, a place to talk and ask the teen librarian for help.

Visit the library during the weeks of April 14th and May 19th for teen and tween grab and go kit.

### ADULTS

4th Wednesday Book Club at 1 p.m. Join us for these upcoming titles: April 23rd: "In the Upper Country" by Kai Thomas. May 28th: "Demon Cop-head" by Barbara Kingsolver. Contact Jeanine for more information. Pick up copies of the book at the circulation desk. No registration needed.

Game Cafe will feature an hour of gaming, socializing and fun on Thursdays, May 1st and June 5th from 1 to 2 p.m. Play classic card or board games like Chess, Checkers, Sorry, Mancala, Bananagrams and Yahtzee. Coffee and tea will be served.

Beading Time: Crafts for adults is scheduled for the first Saturday of each month from 2 to 3 p.m. Bring your own beads or use ours. Register is required at the circulation desk.

Online Scams and Identity Theft will be explained on Wednesday, April 16th from 1 to 2 p.m.

A Plant Swap will be conducted on Saturday, April 26th from 2 to 4 p.m. Trade pest-free plants, including houseplants, potted plants, cuttings, succulents and more.

Craft Lab - DIY Dry Erase Board on Monday, April 14th at 6 p.m. Repurpose an old picture frame into a dry erase board. Use it for your weekly meal plan, to-do list, or message board. All materials will be provided. May 12th: Diamond Painting Butterflies - like paint by number, but instead of paint you apply tiny "diamonds" to a printed design on an adhesive board. Registration begins April 14th.

Estate Planning for Peace of Mind May 21st at 1 p.m. Topics include wills and trusts, health care decisions making, financial power of attorney forms and beneficiary designations. The 60-minute presentation includes a questions-and-answer session.

Beading time 1st Saturdays at 2 p.m. May 3rd - Stretchable Bracelet. Create jewelry and ornaments with beads and wire. Bring your own material of use ours. Ages 16 and up.

## Obituaries



**DOROTHY A. HOLAN**, formerly of Archer Heights. Daughter of late Mary (nee Urbowicz) & late Edward Holan; niece of late Sophie (late William) Kleats. Funeral Mass will be celebrated Thursday, April 10th, 9:45 a.m. at Mary, Mother of Divine Grace Church, 2600 Mayfair ave., Westchester. Entombment will be at Pope Paul II Shrine Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery. Services were entrusted to Zarzycki Manor Chapels.



**MARIA KUSTWAN**, (nee Rusin), age 90 of Eagle River, Wisconsin, long-time resident of Archer Heights; wife of late Joseph Kustwan; mother of Joseph (Janet), Mary (George) Stohinski; Sophie (late Thomas) Patterson and Barbara (George) Artymiuk; grandmother of 10; great-grandmother of 14; daughter of late Ludwika & late John Rusin; sister of Josephine Gigiel, late Ludwika Malik and late Anna Jarosz. Visitation was held April 4th at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Willow Springs. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 5th at Our Lady, Mother of the Church, Willow Springs. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery, Justice.

### Core X Class At Park 596

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Core X Class at the Brighton Park Community Campus (Park No. 596), 4830 S. Western on Wednesdays, May 7th to 28th from 12 to 12:45 p.m.

Strengthen the foundation of your body - your Core! This class will target the muscles of the abs, back and glutes to increase strength and muscular endurance. All fitness levels are welcome. Registraton is encouraged, but not required at [chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com).

### Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church

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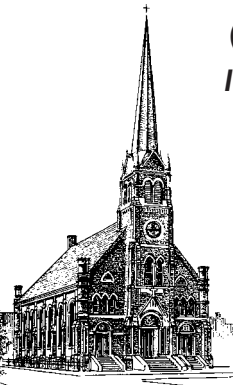
Invites You to Join Us For

Palm Sunday Service on  
April 13th at 10:30 a.m.

*Fresh Palms Will Be Given Out*

Good Friday Service on  
April 18th at 11 a.m.  
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Since 1886*



*Hosanna  
in the  
Highest!*



### St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish Welcomes You

Both Churches are Handicapped Accessible

#### Masses at St. Barbara

Bridgeport — 2859 S. Throop

Saturday, 5 PM,

Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM

6 AM & 9:30 AM Sunday Masses

Weekday Schedule (Chapel)

Tue., Thurs., & Sat. 8 AM Mass

#### Masses at St. Therese

Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander

Sunday Masses

8AM in English

10:30 AM in English

Weekday Schedule

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

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

Indonesian Mass, Palm Sunday, April 13, 11:30 AM at St. Barbara  
Palms Blessed and Distributed at All Masses on Palm Sunday

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Friday at 7 PM  
April 11 at St. Barbara

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### 12TH WARD SPRING 2025 COMMUNITY CLEAN UP SCHEDULE

Come out for our spring community clean ups to help beatify our neighborhoods. materials and refreshments provided.

#### Back of the Yards

Date: **Saturday April 12, 10am - 12pm (noon)**  
Meet up location: **Back of the Yards College Prep, 2111 W 47th St**



#### Brighton Park

Date: **Saturday April 19, 10am - 12pm (noon)**  
Meet up location: **Carnitas Don Rafa, 4597 S Archer Ave**



#### McKinley Park

Date: **Saturday April 26, 10am - 12pm (noon)**  
Meet up location: **35th St & Hamilton, by Hoyne Park mural**



For more information, contact the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward office at 773-475-6783 or [ward12@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward12@cityofchicago.org)







## 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 am. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

LEGO Club for ages 6 to 13 is scheduled for Thursday, April 17th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Bricks and materials will be provided.

Tween/Teen YOUmedia: Open Lab (ages 11-18) most Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. Students can hang out, play games, snack and use laptops and digital equipment.

Little Learners Story Time for ages to 5 and their caregiver will meet on Fridays through April 25th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Play time will follow songs and stories.

An Adult Book Discussion of "I Have Some Questions For You" by Rebecca Makkaï is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23rd from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Copies are available at the front desk.

A series of nutrition/exercise lessons for adults will be taught on Tuesdays through May 20th at 11 a.m. Participants will learn about increasing fruit and vegetable consumption, increasing physical activity, cooking skills, and saving money on food. No registration is required.

A LEGO and DUPLO Club for families with children 3 years and up is scheduled for Thursdays through May 8th from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Sit, Stay, Read for ages 5-9 on Saturday, April 12th from 2 to 3 p.m. Join the Certified Reading Assistance Dogs from SitStayRead in fun activities. A parent must be present.

Pete The Cat Celebration for ages 5-10 on Thursday, April 24th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. We will read stories, craft and play games.

Family Nintendo Switch for ages 8+ on Monday, April 28th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Parents/caregivers must be present for kids under 13.

Family Fun Series for ages 3 to 13. Each week we will feature a STEM or craft activity, building materials, puzzles, toys

or coloring. Parent or adult guardian must be present. Saturday, April 5th at 2 p.m. "Make a Bunny Paper Doll." Thursday, April 10th at 3:30 p.m. "Building Activities" and Monday, April 21st at 3:30 p.m. "Earth Day Science".

Film Screening: Elemental (2023, PG) on Saturday, April 26th from 1 to 2:45 p.m. Asha and Star must work together to defeat the ruthless ruler, King Magnifico.

Teen/Tween Craft Workshops for ages 12 to 16 on most Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. Stop by for some coloring or mixed media art projects. We provide all the supplies.

Poetry + Plant Connection presented by McKinley Park Community Garden on Sunday, April 13th from 2 to 3:30 p.m. All experience levels and ages are welcome.

Create Better Health presented by Chicago Partnership for Health every Tuesday, 11 to 12 p.m. (accept for April 15th). Classes on how to prepare food and be active on a budget.

Film Screening of The Flash (2023, PG-13) on Friday, April 11th from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Worlds collide when Barry uses his superpowers to travel back in time to change the events of the past.

Stockyard Stitches Club on Monday, April 14th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Bring your own project supplies for a casual evening of stitching and sharing over tea. No formal instruction or projects are provided.

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

### Police Beat 922 Plans Meeting

The Chicago Police Department 9th District will conduct a public meeting for Beat 922 at the Brighton Park Community Campus, 4830 S. Western on Tuesday, May 27th from 6 to 7 p.m.

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

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

## Open Studios At Bridgeport Art Ctr.



Provided by Bridgeport Art Center

### Corridor Gallery 4th floor created by tenant artists.

The Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th st. will conduct Third Fridays Open Studio on April 18th from 7 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](http://bridgeportart.com).

The Illinois High School Art Exhibition program is open through April 20th. Over 100 city, suburban, public and private high schools are participating in various exhibition programs. Galleries are open daily Monday to Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bridgeport Art Center announces a call for artists for its 13th Annual Art Competition that is exhibited in the 4th Floor Gallery. Artists 18 years of age and older, may submit work completed within 2022-2025 at [bridgeportart.slideroom.com/#/Login](http://bridgeportart.slideroom.com/#/Login). The fee is \$40. This juried competition accepts a broad range of art media and styles. Not eligible are functional pottery, jewelry, clothing, accessories, furniture, other primarily functional art, or time-art such as video, sound or film.

Prizes are: Best of Show - \$3,000; 2nd prize - \$1,500; 3rd prize - \$750 and People's Choice - \$500. Exhibition dates are May 16th to June 27th. The opening reception and awards ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 16th from 7 to 10 p.m. Finalists will receive an acceptance email with the

exhibitor's agreement on April 10th. Finalists will be posted on April 11th.

An exhibition, curated by Marci Rubin is accepting art works whose subject is "The Landscape is Changing". Open to all media and styles, including sculpture and installation based pieces. The \$27 application fee is due by June 18th. The opening reception is set for Friday, July 18th from 7 to 10 p.m.

Exhibitions include "Thirst Trap" curated by Stacey Kalmanovsky. This group of artists employs their prowess to lean into questions about thirstyness.

"Surfaces" curated by Marci Rubin features the works of tenant artists in the 3rd floor gallery. Artistic surfaces include paper, canvas, wood, metal, clay, fabric, glass, found objects, or the outside of anything that can be built upon. Artists activate a surface by applying their medium to the selected substrate using their specific techniques and skills.

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.

Visit the Sculpture Garden Exhibit Space for a holiday market featuring tenants of the BAC and select vendors and creators of all types.

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 at the Bridgeport Art Center, call (773) 843-9000.

### Chinatown Library Schedules Programs

The Chinatown Branch Library, 2100 S. Wentworth ave. has scheduled interesting programs.

A Drop-In Knit and Crochet Series for ages 18 and up is scheduled for Tuesdays, April 15th and 22nd from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Meet new friends, learn new techniques or just have fun. Bring your own materials or borrow our limited supplies.

Board Game Play for ages 13 and up is available on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In collaboration with the Chicago Tabletop and Board Game Meetup Group, all levels are welcome.

Registration is suggested at (312) 747-8013.

### Productions At Lyric Opera

Lyric Opera's new season is an enchanting mix of new, contemporary works and familiar, classic productions. The season continues with Puccini's *La Boheme*, through April 12th; Issy Mazzoli's *The Listeners*, through April 11th and a Wondrousound, April 16th & 19th. Performances in the 2024-25 season will take place at the Lyric Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive and will feature English translations projected above the stage. For information on performance dates and ticket availability, visit [lyricopera.org](http://lyricopera.org) or call (312) 827-5600.

To learn more about the 2024/25 season, visit [lyricopera.org/newseason/shows/upcoming/2024-25/](http://lyricopera.org/newseason/shows/upcoming/2024-25/).

## 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](http://www.chipublib.org) for more information and to register for the following programs.

### ADULT

Sit & Stitch Crochet takes place on Fridays, April 18th, May 2nd, May 16th and May 30th from 10 to 11 a.m. Bring your chochet hooks and yard. We have limited materials to get started. Get to know fellow creators and learn new tips.

### TEEN

Teen Volunteer Club is available on Saturday,

April 19th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For those who need service/volunteer hours for school or are looking to help out your community. Materials will be provided.

### CHILDREN

Story Time for ages to 5 will be held on Monday, April 14th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Enjoy short stories, singing and craft.

Flower Planting for Earth Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22nd from 5 to 6 p.m. Ages 5 to 13 will plant a seed and decorate their flowerpot. All materials will be provided.

Popcorn Reading for ages 6 and up will be conducted on Thursdays, April 10th and 24th from 5 to 6 p.m. Practice your reading skills at our read aloud group. Snacks will be provided.

## Church Services

### BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

Sts. Peter and Paul Church  
3745 S. Paulina (773) 523-3917

Holy Week & Easter Sunday 2025. April 12th Vigil of Palm Sunday, 4 p.m. Mass English and 6 p.m. Espanol.

April 13th, Palm Sunday, 9 a.m. Mass English; 11 a.m. Espanol and 1 p.m. Espanol.

April 14th - 16th, Monday - Wednesday of Holy Week, 8:30 a.m. Mass.

The Sacred Triduum - April 17th, Holy Thursday, 7 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to follow until 10 p.m.

April 18th, Good Friday, 9 a.m. Outdoor Living Stations of the Cross; 12 p.m. Stations of the Cross, English; 3 p.m. Via Crucis, Spanish; 7 p.m. Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord.

April 19th, Holy Saturday 12 p.m. Blessing of Easter Baskets, 8 p.m. Easter Vigil.

April 20th, Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of the Lord, 9 a.m. Mass English, 11 a.m. Espanol and 1 p.m. Espanol.

### FIVE HOLY MARTYRS 43rd & Richmond IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 44th & California

Sunday Mass: Immaculate Conception 7 a.m., Espanol; Five Holy Martyrs, 9 a.m., English; Immaculate Conception, 10 a.m., Lithuanian; Five Holy Martyrs, 10:30 a.m., Polish; Immaculate Conception, 12 p.m., Espanol; Five Holy Martyrs, 2 p.m., Espanol and Immaculate Conception, 6 p.m. Epsanol.

Weekly Mass - Monday to Friday, Immaculada Concepcion, 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Espanol. Saturday - Immaculada Concepcion, 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Espanol.

Holy Hours - Thursdays after 6:30 p.m. Mass Immaculada Concepcion.

### ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH 3658 S. Honore (773) 376-5370

Join us for services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., Bible Study & Sunday School at 11 a.m., Chinese Bible Study every Saturday in the Ministry Center at 7:45 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17th and Good Friday, April 18th at 7 p.m.

### Free Concert At Cultural Center

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events will present an "Under the Dome Concert" at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., on Thursday, April 24 from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

Free admission, rsvp online at [chicago.cultural-center.org](http://chicago.cultural-center.org).

A Clothing Swap will be conducted from 5 to 8 p.m. (on pause during artists sets) with Chicago Fair Trade's Conscious Closet Club! Bring clean (no stains) items you want to add to the swap and leave with a whole new look. Folks can take up to 3 items!

## Free Admission At Shedd Aquarium



Photo Credit: ©Shedd Aquarium

Shedd Aquarium offers free admission to Illinois residents on Free Tuesday Evenings: 5-9 p.m. on April 15th, 22nd and 29th; May 6th, 13th 20th and 27th.

In Shedd's historic rotunda, Wonder of Water two towering saltwater and freshwater habitats display live corals, freshwater plants and an array of colorful fishes. In Amazon Rising, guests are transported to a biodiversity hotspot for encounters with an anaconda, river stingrays, poison dart frogs and piranhas. Live programs give guests the opportunity to watch animal caretakers feed arapaima or electric eels and learn about their behaviors.

Admission includes daily Animal Spotlights to join caretakers as they highlight adaptations of dolphins, beluga whales, sea lions and more in the Abbott Oceanarium and

touch experiences to discover the textures of different animals.

Advance reservations are recommended due to the high demand. There is a \$5 convenience fee per order for Free Day reservations made online. However, you can reserve tickets by phone at no extra cost by calling (312) 939-2438.

For the latest information, visit [shedd.aquarium.org](http://shedd.aquarium.org).

### 2025 Home Repair Program is Open

The Home Repair Program provides grants to income-eligible homeowners for improvements to their roof or porch. For more information, call (312) 744-3653, visit [chicago.gov/housing](http://chicago.gov/housing) or email [doh@cityofchicago.org](mailto:doh@cityofchicago.org).

This year, the Home Repair Program will also provide small repairs (ie. grab bars, lever faucets, etc.) for homeowners who need accessibility improvements.

Registration is now open online, by calling 311. Homeowners will be prioritized based on the length of tenancy. All interested homeowners will be contacted within a month of registration.

Households earning up to 50 percent of area median income may be eligible to participate in the program.

### Rep. I Mah Sponsors Bingo

State Rep. Theresa Mah presents monthly Bingo at the McKinley Park Fieldhouse, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on the 2nd Friday of every month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Light refreshments and coffee will be served. For more information, contact (872) 281-5775 or [office@reptheresamah.com](mailto:office@reptheresamah.com).

### 6544 W. 63rd St. - Under Contract

3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath Brick Raised Ranch. Thermopane windows, all appliances stay, hardwood floors underneath the carpet. Two car detached garage. Fenced-in yard. Walking distance to shopping center, restaurants, Bus stops and easy interstate access. Call 773-582-9300 for more details.



### 6189 S. Archer Ave. - SOLD

Two large store fronts, 2 baths, GFA, CA, partial basement, 48x125 foot lot. Zoning is B3-1. Parking in rear. Immediate possession. Call (773) 583-9300 for more details.

### Honesty, Integrity, Service

(773) 582-9300

6165 S. ARCHER

(At Austin)



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