



# Rejoice Together in Church This Easter

## A Study On Family Stability



By Dr. R. Pletsch

I found an interesting article in the April, 2025 issue of Newsmax by Van Charles. The article was developed by Brad Wilcox, the director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia. The index they developed to study demographics to determine which states are best situated to both help prospects for "happy and healthy children and the economic well-being of the state".

Many can agree that the goal is both lofty and worthwhile. Simply put, they measure things like stability. They see which people were married before cohabitation and in which the children are in the family with the same parents. It is well noted, even in some cases accepted, that people have kids whenever it suits them, not if it suits the new person that is brought into the world. The work shows some revealing consequences. In the study, it shows that 97% of young people who follow the three guidelines: 1. graduate, 2. get a job, and 3. marry before they have children. They do not live in poverty as adults. The prime age for success is that the

children are still in the home with the same two parents when they are 15 - 17.

The 2025 index indicates that Utah is the best for family stability, followed by Idaho, Nebraska and South Dakota. What many consider as culture is not surprising. The most influenced by media states of California was 44th and New York was 48th on the list. Our own Illinois was 41st out of 50. Our neighbors in Indiana were rated 16th, Wisconsin 24th and Iowa was 8th.

The 50th spot on the list is Rhode Island, which finished last with a 32.1 index score. Utah, which finished first, scored a 94.4. Illinois was at 50.7. As always, if you want to dig deeper, the information is not hard to find on the internet. The index is interesting, but if you have never had a statistics course, it may be hard to understand. Then whether you agree or disagree, you have the data. Remember, just disagreeing does not make the study wrong. We can all think of people who do not fit this profile, but they are the exceptions. Many agree that these goals would be advantageous for children in all families.

The study is about family and it may be slanted that marriage, in general, is good and healthy. Much of the population of the world believe this though certain cultures have extended the worth of the family to be a larger group, maybe even a tribe. These, while not widespread in the US, do exist. May your Easter bring your family the joy that many of us believe it was intended to do.

## Cooler Things Made in Illinois

Chosen by voters from an initial field of more than 250 entries, the Aerial Firefighting Helicopter Refill Pump made by MTH pumps in Plano has been crowned the winner of the 2025 "Makers Madness" contest, earning the title of The Coolest Thing Made in Illinois.

Hosted by the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and sponsored by Comcast Business, the bracket-style competition celebrates the work of manufacturing, the largest contributor of any industry to the state's Gross Domestic Product.

The Pump was designed to reduce the refill time of helicopter-based water tanks from

over a minute to as little as 30 seconds, increasing the number of water drops that aerial firefighters can place on a wildfire. This time advantage improves the chances of slowing or stopping fires from endangering lives, property and habitats. When wildfires in California left a trail of destruction, MTH Pumps helped by providing rapid water access for firefighting teams.

Other finalists included the Joint Combined Aircrew Systems Tester, which is used to assess safety during military flying operations, manufactured by Chemring Energetic Devices in Downers Grove; Donor Milk, a life-saving product that provides nutrition to premature and critically ill babies, which is pasteurized and distributed by Mother's Milk Bank of Western Great Lakes in Elk Grove Village, and ROV Skimmer - Remote Operated Oil Skimmer, a remote controlled device used for oil recovery in aquatic spills, manufactured by Elastec in Carmi.

### Registration For Summer Day Camp

The Chicago Park District will conduct Summer Day Camp June 23rd through Aug. 1st. Programs can be viewed and registered online at [chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com).

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

### Earth Day In McKinley Park

Celebrate Earth Day in McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing road on Saturday, April 26th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the southside of the lagoon. Stewardship work day in the natural area (gloves/tools provided) and talk to a tree-keeper.

From 10 a.m. to noon by the fieldhouse, plant giveaway, artmaking & printmaking and free raffle for book and garden supplies.

## Saint Ignatius Wins 8th Chess Title



Saint Ignatius College Prep earned the Chicago Chess Conference Champ title for the eighth year in a row under the coaching of Hector Hernandez. Eleven schools participated in the Conference's 2024-2025 season including Brother Rice, De La Salle, DePaul, Francis W. Parker, Hope Academy, Latin, Marist, Mt. Carmel, Saint Ignatius, St. Patrick and St. Rita. Teams played a series of weekly matches during the season to determine the eventual champion.

## Record Number Of Property Tax Appeals

The Cook County Board of Review has received a record number of property tax appeals, involving a nearly 41% increase in the total of Property Index Numbers compared to the 2023 tax year. Appeals filed for tax year 2024 increased by 11% over tax year 2023 and also by more than 10% above 2021, which was the last time the city was reassessed.

The 273,907 property tax appeals filed for tax year 2024 has presented the biggest challenge in the agency's history as more than half of the appeals have already been finalized. This surge of homeowners, businesses, and landowners seeking fairness is largely due to increases in property values across commercial and residential sectors.

As a quasi-judicial body, the CCBOR's mission is to serve property owners through the appeal process by reaching decisions based on all facts and data presented for each property.

According to the Assessor's Office Final Chicago Reassessment Data for 2024, the total assessed property value has increased by 23%, or \$9.5 billion, growing from \$41.3 billion to \$50.8 billion. A major reason for this jump has been an increase in commercial

property assessments.

Homeowners, especially in the south suburban neighborhoods and parts of Chicago, have seen their properties impacted by sharp increases in assessed value, thus resulting in higher tax bills. In addition, commercial properties, particularly in revitalized neighborhoods and near new infrastructure developments, have experienced the largest increases.

For the 2023 tax year, reports revealed that the land values for more than 4,000 properties were miscalculated, leading to inflated assessments and dramatic tax increases. The Assessor's Office acknowledged these errors and worked to correct them. Despite these corrective actions, many homeowners and business owners remain concerned about the overall impact of rising land assessments, particularly in areas experiencing rapid development.

Members of the Board of Review continue their commitment to serving taxpayers by ensuring fairness, transparency and accuracy throughout the process. For more information on how to appeal a property tax assessment, homeowners and business owners can visit [www.cookcounty-boardofreview.com](http://www.cookcounty-boardofreview.com).

## Trash Bash At Dan Ryan Woods

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct a Trash Bash at Dan Ryan Woods - Central, 83rd & Western on Saturday, April 26th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Event partners will be collecting electronics, prescription drugs, books, musical instruments, bikes, clothing and more. The first 25 donors will receive a free, "Don't be Trashy" t-shirt, Grove 1.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities at the Forest Preserves, enjoy green giveaways courtesy of the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability & MWRD and participate in a litter cleanup. Supplies will be provided.

The Sheriff's Office will be collecting prescription pills and recycling select electronics including cables, cell phones / telephone devices, computers/laptops, hardware, motherboards, monitors, calculators, printers, fax machines, game systems, stereos, toasters, blenders, toner cartridges, UPS batteries and televisions (limit 1 per household).

Habitat for Humanity will be accepting tools, artwork, new/unused building materials, small appliances, lawn/garden

items and home goods.

South Suburban College/ CHARM Center will be accepting glass, plastic bottles, cardboard, polystyrene, textiles and e-waste.

Working Bikes will be accepting adult and childrens bikes in repairable condition, parts, tools and accessories.

Creative Chicago Reuse Exchange will be accepting various items, including all types of paper, art books, magazines, art and office supplies, power tools, audio/visual equipment, theatrical lighting, digital cameras, computers, calculators, furniture and ladders.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will also have Terracycle receptacles for the collection of Office Supplies, Batteries, Lightbulbs and Plastic Bags.

### Body Bootcamp At Park 596

A Total Body Bootcamp will be held at Park No. 596, 4830 S. Western on Wednesday, May 7th from 6 to 6:45 p.m.

This class combines strength and cardio movements. All fitness levels are welcome.

## Earth Week At Lincoln Park Zoo



Photo provided by Lincoln Park Zoo

From April 21st to 27th, Lincoln Park Zoo is celebrating Earth Week with a full slate of free activities and programs. Bring the family to Earth Day on April 22nd, Destination Discovery Story Time with Chicago Public Library on April 23rd, and Arbor Day on April 25th. You can also compete in the City Nature Challenge at McKinley Park on April 26th from 12:30 to 2 p.m. or the zoo's Nature Boardwalk on April 26th and 27th.

Summer Camp at Lincoln Park Zoo is a fun-filled experience that allows school-aged children to connect with nature through hands-on activities, visits to the animals, and more. Opportunities are available in Summer Zoo Crew for students in grades 6-8, which allows campers to explore their interests in animals and conservation while building relationships. Limited spaces are available for Summer Conservation Camp, where kids ages 4-10 can explore, make new friends, and spend time outside.

Lincoln Park Zoo is the only privately managed free zoo in the country—and it offers daily activities to enhance your visit throughout spring and summer. Learn how zoo staff care for Jamaican iguanas, polar bears, seals, Japanese macaques, giraffes, African penguins, chimpanzees, and western

lowland gorillas during seasonal demonstrations. Teens between ages 16-18 are needed to facilitate nature play programs. These paid teen interns will guide toddlers to build literacy skills by reading to the animals, or provide nature play experiences on the South Lawn. Training is provided.

Planning ahead for Memorial Day weekend? Head to your zoo for a free and family-friendly celebration featuring photo ops, programming for all ages, and ticketed attractions, including a Fun Slide and Ferris wheel.

Join Sensory-Friendly Morning on Sunday, April 27th from 8 to 10 a.m. This event is free, but you must register in advance to enjoy the zoo grounds, animal buildings, and rides operating at lower noise levels.

### Tax Relief Fund For Homeowners

The Cook County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution establishing the eligibility criteria for the Homeowner Relief Fund, which is a \$15 million program to assist homeowners who have experienced a substantial increase on their property tax bills.

This program will provide immediate relief to residents as Cook County continues to pursue long-term property tax reform efforts at the state and local levels.

Under the direction of the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, the Homeowner Relief Fund will provide one-time payments of \$1,000 to eligible households. The application is expected to open this summer, with the payments issued shortly after.

Eligible households must have an income at or below 100 percent of the Area Median Income for their respective household size. Applicants must have seen their property tax bill increase by at least 50 percent in any year since the 2021 tax year.

AidKit, Inc., will serve as the administrator for this program, and implement a lottery system to select applicants if needed.

## Church Services

**BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3532 S. Hoyne  
(773) 523-7911  
[bethanychicago.org](http://bethanychicago.org)  
Ministering in McKinley Park since 1888

Sunday, 10 a.m., Worship Service, Ismael Dominguez, speaker. Come and bring a friend to our Easter service and luncheon.

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., dinner, fellowship and Bible study. Everyone is invited

Wednesday, Awana kids club & Youth Group, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Awana: Ages 3 thru 6th grade / Youth Group: 7th thru 12th grade. All welcome

**BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH**  
Sts. Peter and Paul Church  
3745 S. Paulina (773) 523-3917

Holy Week & Easter Sunday 2025. 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. Espanol.

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.

**HOLY CROSS EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3116 S. Racine Ave.  
(773) 523-3838  
Ministering in Bridgeport since 1886  
Good Friday Service, April 18th at 11 a.m. with Rev. Carlos Ortiz.  
Easter Sunday Service, April 20th at 10:30 a.m.

**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.

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

**ST. RICHARD CHURCH**  
50th & Kostner

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper - Trilingual at 7 p.m. at St. Richard.

Good Friday - The Passion of the Lord Services. St. Richard, 3 p.m. English, 6 p.m. Spanish, 7:30 p.m. Polish. St. Bruno, 4:30 p.m. English, 6 p.m. Polish, 7:30 p.m. Spanish.

Holy Saturday, Blessing of the Easter Baskets. St. Richard at 10 & 11 a.m. St. Bruno at 12 & 1 p.m.

Easter Vigil Mass, Trilingual at 7 p.m. at St. Bruno. Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord. St. Richard Masses: 6 a.m. Polish, 9 a.m. English, 10:30 a.m. Spanish. St. Bruno Masses: 10:30 a.m. Polish & 12:30 p.m. Spanish.

**ST. MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA CATHOLIC PARISH**

**St. Barbara**  
2859 S. Throop  
(312) 842-7979

**St. Therese**  
218 W. Alexander  
(312) 842-6777

Holy Thursday - St. Barbara 7 p.m. Mass. Church open Midnight. Good Friday - 3 p.m. Stations, 7 p.m. service.

Holy Saturday, St. Barbara, 11:30 a.m. Basket Blessing. St. Theresa, 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil.

Easter Sunday - St. Barbara, Rosary 5:30 a.m., Mass 6 and 9:30 a.m. St. Theresa, 8 and 10:30 a.m. English.

### 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 is open on the Chicago Early Learning website and application portal at [www.cps.edu/ChicagoEarlyLearning/](http://www.cps.edu/ChicagoEarlyLearning/).

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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## 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**

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 Tie 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

### Free Services For Caregivers

Caregiver Services Programs include free services such as: Education & Training; Learning new skills to care for you and loved one.

Gap-Filling Funds: Help buying essential items like clothing, furniture, grab bars, eye-glasses, technology and hearing aids.

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

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

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

Programs are for individuals of any age who are caring for a Chicago resident age 60+ or under age 60 with Alzheimer's Disease or Related Dementias.

Contact the DFSS Senior Services Division Information and Assistance Unit at [aging@city-ofchicago.org](mailto:aging@city-ofchicago.org) or (312) 744-4016.

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 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 Copperhead" 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.

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 - 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.

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.

### 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 [chicago.parkdistrict.com/events/breakfast-bunny-lincoln-0](http://chicago.parkdistrict.com/events/breakfast-bunny-lincoln-0).

### Trivia Walk At Dan Ryan Woods

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct an Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Trivia Walk at the Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th & Western on Saturday, May 3rd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Cherry Blossoms In Jackson Park



Photo provided by the Chicago Park District

The area surrounding the Columbian Basin in Jackson Park is home to about 200 pink and white cherry blossom trees that typically bloom each Spring. The trees are located just south of the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, on either side of the South Portico and surrounding the Columbia Basin. The trees are also found on the north end of the Wooded Island and the Osaka Garden.

The oldest "mother tree" is at stage 5-6. Most of the other trees are age stage 4 approaching stage 5. Stage 5: Many, if not most, of the buds have opened and now have their white and pink petals exposed. Stage 6: Full bloom - nearly all of the buds have opened and the trees are now in their most beautiful stage.

In partnership with cultural partners, including the Japanese Arts Foundation, the Japanese Culture Center, the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago and the Jackson Park Advisory Council, the Park District will host a variety of events inspired in the Japanese culture. Saturday, April 26th from 1 to 3 p.m. Hanami (Cherry Blossom Viewing). Mon., May 5th from 10 to 2 p.m. Children's Day (Kodomo no hi).

## Free Admission At Shedd Aquarium



Photo Credit: ©Shedd Aquarium

Shedd Aquarium offers free admission to Illinois residents on Free Tuesdays: 5-9 p.m. on April 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).

### Internships For Public Library

The Chicago Public Library is offering paid Summer Internships for high school students and recent graduates, ages 16-19. Participants will gain valuable work experience, develop leadership skills, and make an impact in your community.

After applying at [one-summerchicago.org](http://one-summerchicago.org) you will be directed to the After School Matters website to selection a CPL location.

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

### Power Flow Yoga At Park 596

Park No. 596 at 4830 S. Western will offer May in Motion: Power Flow Yoga on Wednesday, May 7th from 7 to 7:45 p.m.

This vinyasa style yoga increases flexibility and strength. All fitness levels are welcome. A limited supply of yoga mats are available.

### PPP Schedules Clean Up Event

Party Per Purpose, 3982 S. California will conduct its 3rd annual Earth Day Community Clean Up on Saturday, April 26th from 1 to 4 p.m. Garbage bags, gloves, masks, light refreshments and snacks will be provided.

## 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, May 14th and June 11th from 1 to 2 p.m. This online 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, Pinocle 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, May 8th at 6 p.m. to discuss "Mister Magic" by Kiersten White.

The Science of Color and Light for ages 8 - 12 on Monday, April 21st at 3:30 p.m. Make slime that changes color in the sunlight, crate a rainbow shadow box, and build iridescent bubble boxes in this fun and senory, STEAM series. Registration required.

Chess and LEGOs for ages 5+ on Wednesday, April 23rd at 4 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzle competition on Saturday, April

### Earth Day Park Clean Ups

The Chicago Park District has scheduled Earth Day Park Clean Ups at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd.; Park No. 596 at 4830 S. Western and Vittum Park, 5010 W. 50th st. on Saturday, April 26th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Register at <https://signup.com/go/CaCwODc>. This event is great for all ages, held in partnership with Friends of the Parks.

### 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)

26th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join us for our first ever Speed Puzzle Event. Register as a group of up to four or solo. Space is limited to 10 groups. Registration is required online at [chipublib.org/events](http://chipublib.org/events).

Speed Puzzle Competition for ages 10 and up on Saturday, April 26th at 2 p.m. Register as a group or solo for a 300-piece jig saw puzzle. Registration required.

Senior Coffee Hour will be held on Thursday, April 17th from 1 to 2 p.m. A powerpoint presentation will feature the Illinois State Park System.

DIY T-Shirt to Tote Bag will be constructed on Friday, April 18th at 2 p.m. No sewing required. Bring your own t-shirt or register to use one of our summer design shirts.

Teen Volunteer Hours will be conducted on Tuesday, April 29th at 5 p.m. Need volunteer hours or school? Join us to make handmade cards for people in need of cheer. Bring in any form you need signed. Registration is required.

May Toddler Programs: Color and Stamp on Mondays, May 5th to 19th from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Ages 18 months to 4 years will listen to a story and color. Stampers, crayons and Bingo dabbers will be available. Stories & Songs for ages 18 months to 4 years on Wednesdays, May 7th to 21st, 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Children will listen to stories, sing and move. Bubbles, egg shakers and scarves will be available. Summer Reading starts June 23rd. Registration opens June 21st. Participants receive books, prizes and earn a t-shirt.

Register for events at [chipublib.org/events](http://chipublib.org/events).

### 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).

## Obituaries



**DONNA MARIE HUBBLE** (nee Stachowicz), passed away on April 3rd at the age of 78. A life long McKinley Park area resident, she was the wife of late Alan Hubble; mother of Christopher Hubble and grandmother of Emma Hubble. Member of the McKinley Park Civic Association and active in the 12th ward. Visitation will be held Friday, April 25th from 4 to 8 p.m., with a prayer service at 7 p.m. at Wollschlager Funeral Home, 3604 S. Hoyne. Private inurnment of cremated remains will be at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL at a later date.

### Coffee Chat At Yards Library

Neighbors For Environmental Justice will conduct a Community Coffee Chat at the Back of the Yards Branch Library, 2111 W. 47th st. on Saturday, April 19th from 12 to 2 p.m.

Environmental issues will be discussed and refreshments will be provided.

For more information, visit <https://linktr.ee/n4ej>.



**JACOB LINDY** who was born on June 4th, 1996, passed away on March 31st at the age of 28. He was the husband of Melanie (Morrisette) Lindy; son of Allison & David Boland and Joseph Lindy; brother of Erin Lindy; grandson of Beverly & John Scott, Mikki & Jon Sadowski and Robert & Donna Lanzi; godson and nephew of Andrea Lanzi. Services were held at the Blackburn-Giegerich-Sonntag Funeral Home, Joliet.

**ELLEN E. MIKALAUSKAS**, lifelong resident of Brighton Park, passed away on Jan. 12th at the age of 69. She was the mother of Jennifer Mikalauskas; grandmother of 5 and great-grandmother of 4.

### Egg Hunt At Play Gardens

The McKinley Community Play Garden, 3518-28 S. Wolcott will conduct an Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The McKinley Branch library staff will have craft making activities inside.

### Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church

3116 S. Racine Ave.  
(773) 523-3838  
*Invites You to Join Us For*

**Easter Sunday Service on April 20th at 10:30 a.m.**

**Good Friday Service on April 18th at 11 a.m. with Rev. Carlos Ortiz**  
*Ministering in Bridgeport Since 1886*

**"He has Risen, Have faith in him... And he will always be there for you!"**  
**"Have a blessed and Happy Easter!"**

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

**Both Churches are Handicapped Accessible**

<b>Masses at St. Barbara</b> <i>Bridgeport — 2859 S. Throop</i> <b>Easter Sunday Masses</b> Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM 6 AM & 9:30 AM Sunday Masses <b>Weekday Schedule (Chapel)</b> Tue., Thurs., & Sat. 8 AM Mass	<b>Masses at St. Therese</b> <i>Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander</i> <b>Easter Sunday Masses</b> 8AM in English 10:30 AM in English <b>Weekday Schedule</b> Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass <b>Easter Sunday - April 20, 2025</b>
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**St. Barbara: 312-842-7979 St. Therese: 312-842-6777 School 312-326-2837**

**Holy Thursday, St. Barbara, 7pm Mass, Church open Midnight**  
**Good Friday, St. Barbara, 3pm Stations, 7pm, Service**

**HolySaturday, St. Barbara, 11:30 am Basket Blessing**  
**St. Therese, 7:30 pm Easter Vigil**

## Celebrating His Love

**At Eastertime we are reminded of the love our Heavenly Father bestows upon each and every one of us.**

**May Easter bring God's greatest gifts to you and your loved ones.**

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- TIRES •TRANSMISSION







Continued from Page 3

### Real Estate For Sale

\*\*\*\*\*

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC Plaintiff, -v- L.T. COX, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT Defendants 2024 CH 08498  
7955 S. DAMEN AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60620  
NOTICE OF SALE: I HEREBY GIVE notice pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 7, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 9, 2025, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 7955 S. DAMEN AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60620  
Property Index No. 20-31-200-047-0000  
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.  
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale. No cash to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. 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 in "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. Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption. 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 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments 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. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.  
For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876  
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.jsco.com](http://www.jsco.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.  
CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300  
E-Mail: [pleadings@il.cslegal.com](mailto:pleadings@il.cslegal.com)  
Attorney File No. 14-24-05492  
Attorney ARDC No. 00468902  
Attorney Code: 21762  
Case Number: 2024 CH 08498  
JUSCF: 45-461  
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2024 CH 08498 13264528

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[www.scenictreeapts.com](http://www.scenictreeapts.com)  
apply online!

### 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. 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 Saturdays, 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

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 Thursday, April 24th from 5 to 6 p.m. Practice your reading skills at our read aloud group. Snacks will be provided.

### Spring Programs At Park District

The Chicago Park District Spring Program session has begun. Visit [chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com) to view the registration checklist.

Youth employment opportunities are supported in part by Amazon, and the annual Teen Opportunity Fairs will welcome ages 13 to 19 to explore opportunities. Offerings include jobs for 16 and up, and job readiness programs for ages 13 to 15.

The Summer Job Application for Lifeguards is open and we invite you to apply for the opportunity to work beach or pool side this summer. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/Apply-NOW-Lifeguard>.

## 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.

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.

Teen/Tween 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 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 Makkai 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 June 3rd 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.

## New Programs At Brookfield Zoo Chicago



Photo credit Brookfield Zoo Chicago

Brookfield Zoo Chicago invites everyone to enjoy experiences that evoke the feeling of a tropical staycation. Guests can marvel at flamingos in the Swamp and watch dolphins at Seven Seas. The Living Coast offers an immersive underwater world to explore, including a habitat that recently welcomed more than 75 new fish. Colorful species include queen angelfish, Spanish hogfish and Pistachio the sea turtle.

Opportunities to engage with the natural world include an observation at pollinators at the new honeybee observation hives or visit koalas Brumby and Willum as they experience their first Chicago winter. Virtual learning opportunities through programs like the Zoo Adventure Passport and its resources for teachers are available at [brookfieldzoo.org/education](http://brookfieldzoo.org/education).

Learn the secrets of successful birdwatching from seasoned professionals. A free 30-minute tour through the zoo will be offered twice per day of the event. Signups will be available soon.

Take a ride on seasonal attractions (open weather permitting). Separate fees apply for these experiences.

For those setting health and wellness goals, the Zoo's 235 acres offer ample space to explore. Such time in nature extends beyond physical benefits to support cognitive, emotional and social development and well-being. Guests are encouraged to explore the five walking paths available as a map on [brookfieldzoo.org/visit](http://brookfieldzoo.org/visit). Through the Animal

### Meet The Authors At R&R Museum

The Illinois Rock and Roll Museum, 9 W. Cass st., Joliet will conduct Meet The Authors book signing event on Saturday, April 19th from 12 to 2 p.m. Admission and autographs are free. Books will be for sale.

For more information, contact the museum at 815-927-1540 or email [Hello@RoadToRock.org](mailto:Hello@RoadToRock.org).

### Mayor Releases Youth Report

Mayor Johnson released the Youth Impact Report 2024, showcasing year of investment and opportunity for Chicago's young people. The report outlines how City implemented strategies that have expanded employment, educational, and civic engagement opportunities across all 77 community areas.

Since taking office in May 2023, Mayor Johnson has made youth investment a cornerstone of his administration, pledging to create more jobs, elevate youth voices, and expand community-based opportunities. Accomplishments include:

106,860 youth served through the Department of Family and Support Services. 155 youth-focused "kickback" events planned by youth throughout the city through the My CHI. My Future. Safe Spaces program, attended by more than 16,750.

Over 2,000 year-round youth jobs created through DFSS programs. The Peacekeeper Pilot program, in collaboration with GoodKids MadCity, employed 100 youth to receive training and promote safety in their communities. The DSS Laborer's Trainee Pilot provided 70 recent CPS graduates with job training. 55 were hired full-time into union roles.

### 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 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.

Teen Open Lab will feature YOUmedia's 3D printer, Cricut and other creative technology on Mondays, April 28th; May 26th and June 23rd from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Registration is suggested at (312) 747-8013.

### Cardio Tennis At Vittum Park

Vittum Park, 5010 W. 50th st. will conduct a Cardio Tennis Pop Up on Sunday, May 4th from 9 to 10 a.m. To register, [chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com).

In order to plan for these events, we need to make sure we have the right number of coaches. When you register, we assume you are coming. To make sure of that, we are charging \$10 at the time of registration. If you attend, your registration fee will be refunded.

## 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.

Middle Ground for 6 to 8th grade students is offered on Mondays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. through May 19th. Play video games on Nintendo Switch, make crafts, make art and hang out after school. Earn service hours for attendance.

Baby Lapsit Story Time and Play is available on Wednesdays through April 23rd from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join Mx. Dannie for stories, songs and other fun activities, practice literacy skills and build a love for

books. For babies up to 18 months and their families. Siblings are welcome.

LEGO and DUPLO Club will meet on Thursdays through May 29th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Build your own design or try out a design challenge. Work on your own or as a team. We supply the LEGO and DUPLO bricks and you supply the imagination. For families with children 3 years old and up.

Teen Hideaway will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. through April 29th. Create art or learn to use the 3D Printer, button maker, sewing machine or vinyl cutter. Board games are also available.

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

## Nature Play Day At Ryan Woods



Photo provided by Forest Preserves of Cook County

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct Open Nature Play Day at Dan Ryan Woods, 87th & Western on Wednesday, May 14th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy the play space while helping your children connect with nature. Enjoy stories, art and exploration. Visit [fpdcc.com](http://fpdcc.com)

### 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.

Wishing you and yours

# Easter Blessings

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