



A Constitutional Question



By Dr. R. Pletsch

This is a true story. For over 125 years an organization maintained a 42 bed hospital for adults with terminal diseases like cancer. By all records, there was never a complaint about the care or the people administering it. They have a record of care for all patients coming from all walks of life, ideologies and faith.

This organization has done this work out of charity and has never received government funds for their services. Sounds too good to be true, but then the government issued new guidelines that, if not followed, would cost this group to lose their right to serve and all the individuals could be fined \$2,000 a day and jail time even for the first offense.

A little more information -- this is not in Russia or Communist China or even Iran. It was not a long time ago. Some might be saying they need a good lawyer or maybe the Knights Templar, the Sons of Liberty or even the 82nd Airborne.

This may become more compelling to find out

this is the state of New York. The time is now. The caregivers of Rosary Hill Home that is owned and operated by the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne. In May, 2024 the New York Legislature easily passed "Long-term Care Facility Residents Bill of Rights for LGBTQIA and New Yorkers and people living with HIV".

This law gives those giving the services a 57 page curriculum How to Affirm Identification and the pronoun the patient wants must be used. The facility must allow the use of bathrooms that the patient and their guests wish to use. Also the New York Department of Health requires nursing homes must accommodate the patients desires for extramarital relations.

As you can see, the Dominican Order would not be able to make this a permanent part of their program. So far they have not been able to get a religious exemption though it has been given to the Church of Christ Scientists.

This bill passed without much fanfare. It was listed in the papers as a law to prohibit discrimination. Many news articles such as The New York Post, National Catholic Register, National Review, and The AMAC Newsline all support that this idea is avoiding Constitutional issues in the demand for "cultural competency training for all staff".

The Sisters have entered a lawsuit against the state of New York, stating they are violating First Amendment Rights. If you want to follow these items, use the sources I mentioned.

Spring Events At Lincoln Park Zoo



Photo provided by Lincoln Park Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo, 2001 N. Clark st. will conduct Sunset Garden Tours on the second Thursday evening of each month through October. The con- tent will be geared towards adults. The cost is \$20.

River-North Fests will present Saturday Night at the Zoo with karaoke, photo booths, and pop-up bars on Saturday, May 2nd, 6:30 to 10 p.m. \$15 for nonmembers age 21+.

The Language of Flowers on Thursday, May 14th from 6 to 7 p.m. Explore the folklore and symbolism behind popular spring flowers like lilacs, irises, and flowering dogwoods.

Immerse yourself in a restorative Sound Meditation session among native plants and skyline views on select Saturdays, May 17th to Oct. 17th from 9 to 10 a.m. Jay Taylor blends singing bowls, gentle breathwork, and guided relaxation in a welcoming space. No specific training is required.

An after-hours celebration for the 21+ crowd

BrightonParkLIFE.com

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

MPCA 2026 Outstanding Educators



On April 19th, the McKinley Park Civic Association conducted its 53rd annual Community Celebration and announced their Outstanding Educators in the Community. In front row are Heiddie Hernandez of Blessed Sacrament Religious Education, Gail Shoenbeck of St. Andrew Lutheran Church Religious Education, Debra Polak of Evergreen Academy Middle School and Rosa Alvarez of Nathanael Greene Elementary School. Back row: MPCA secretary Sylvia Cortez, president Christopher Bania, treasurer Maribel Castillo, vice president Daniel Beenn, Yesenia Juarez of Namaste Charter School, Efrain Gonzalez of Kelly High School and Jim Krok 2026 William H.G. Toms awardee for Community Service. Not pictured is Mark Jackowiak of DeLaSalle Institute.

Archer Avenue Corridor Updates

By 12th Ward Alderwoman Julia Ramirez

Based on community feedback and conversations with local businesses, the District 12 Office has developed revisions to proposed improvements along Archer Corridor. These updates aim to better reflect the needs of the community while maintaining the project's primary goal: safety. Enhancements are as follows:

Update 1: Archer and 38th – Access to 38th Street will be reopened from Archer to facilitate truck traffic and improve vehicle traffic, allowing direct access to 38th Street rather than requiring trucks to make a more closed turn at Campbell or Rockwell.

Upgrade 2: Archer at Pershing/Rockwell – A second southbound lane will be added as the approach to the Pershing/Rock well intersection to improve vehicle flow and increase the number of vehicles that can cross the intersection at each green light cycle. The change will also allow southbound vehicles to avoid stopped cars from turning left into the McDonald's parking lot. Parking on the street directly adjacent to McDonald's on the south side will be removed to accommodate this change.

Update 3: Archer between 43rd and Sacramento – Eight additional parking spaces will be added on Archer's north side, just north of Whipple, to support

access to businesses. The new left turn lane towards Whipple will be removed to accommodate this change and the new pedestrian shelter island will move south to the Albany pedestrian crossing. The island shelter in Albany will be built with temporary materials this year and will be completed concrete next year.

Whipple between 43rd and Archer - Traffic flow on Whipple between 43rd and Archer will be reversed from one way southbound to one way northbound. This will eliminate the need for left turns and a left turn lane from Archer to Whipple, improving pedestrian access. Left-turns are a major source of pedestrian accidents. Access to this stretch of Whipple will be available via 43rd Street.

Upgrade 4: Archer between Kedzie and 43rd Four new parking spaces will be added on the north side of Archer near Brighton Park Library to improve access to the library and nearby businesses. The recently added left turn lane towards Troy will be shortened to accommodate this change.. The high volume of left turns in Troy requires the turning lane to remain to prevent turning vehicles from blocking southbound traffic on Archer. Reversing the Troy direction (similar to proposed in Whipple) would move additional traffic to the Kedzie intersection..

Update 5: Archer in Christiana – The bus stop in Christiana was recently converted into five parking spaces adjacent to Michael's Sports Lounge. There's another northbound bus stop a block ahead.

Additional Improvements: The pavement will be repaved directly under the Archer Viaduct, south of Western Ave.

The improvements and revised construction are scheduled to be completed by the end of May, weather permitting.

A report and more details from the Department of Water will be released soon at Chicago.gov/kedzie2025 and Chicago.gov/archer2025. For more project updates, visit https://www.the12thward.org/constructionupdates. For questions, contact the District 12 Office at (773) 475-6783 or by email at ward12@cityofchicago.org

Zumba Class At Ping Tom Park

The Chicago Park District will offer Zumba Class at Ping Tom Park, 1700 S. Wentworth on Thursday, May 7th from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Zumba is an aerobic fitness workout method created in Cali, Columbia that involves cardio and Latin-inspired dance. All fitness levels are welcome.

Hicks Graduates

On April 24th, Andrianna Asha Hicks received the Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences degree from National University of Health Sciences.

Free “Learn to Ride” Bike Riding Classes



Photo provided by the City of Chicago

The Chicago Department of Transportation is opening the 2026 summer season of its popular Learn to Ride program, which offers free bike-riding classes for all ages. The classes are led by the SAFE Ambassadors, the outreach and engagement team within CDOT providing education regarding traffic safety and transportation options.

The summer series for adults and teens starts May 7th and will be available throughout the summer at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd.

Participants can register for one of three class types based on skill level: Beginner Learn to Ride – For people who don't know how to ride or want a refresher. Taught on a car-free course.

Skill-Builder Learn to Ride – For riders with basic experience looking to improve skills like signaling, turning, and biking near others. Facilitated in a car-free setting.

Road Ride – A guided ride on city streets focused on real-world navigation, bike lane types, positioning, and route planning.

Skill-Builder classes will be held at McKinley Park. Road Ride classes will continue at Seward Park.

Classes will be offered in English and Spanish, and pre-registered participants will receive a free helmet, while supplies last. Adults and teens aged 13–17 may participate (teens must be accompanied by a parent or guardian). Bicycles are available for all participants to use at no cost; however, students may benefit from practicing on a personal bike if they have one. Reservations are required for all classes and are granted on a

first-come, first-serve basis.

For assistance, email 312SAFEbike@gmail.com or text (773) 312-3283.

The SAFE Ambassadors will offer Learn to Ride classes for children aged 6-12. Each two-hour class will be facilitated by Junior Ambassadors, who are Park District recreation leaders, June 17th through Aug. 6th.

Parents must provide a working, bike for their child. The Ambassadors will provide and custom-fit a free helmet. Each class can accommodate 8 children, and parents must stay onsite during the lessons. Reservations are required at KidsLearnToRide@gmail.com, or text (312) 775-2801.

Civic Meeting In McKinley Park

The McKinley Park Civic Association will be hosting Attorney Joseph Nery from the Law firm of Nery, Richardson & Konewko LLC during its next meeting in the auditorium of the McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th st. on Wednesday, May 6th at 6 p.m.

His topic will be estate planning including Wills and Trusts. Pre-registration is not required as this is an open meeting for all neighborhood residents and individuals.

For more information, email mckinleyparkcivicassociation68@gmail.com. Refreshments will be provided.

Chess Tournament at Lozano Library

The Lozano Branch Library, 1805 S. Loomis, is hosting a free community chess tournament on Saturday, May 2nd.

The Knight Moves Chess Club Spring Championship will have a section for high school and adult players and one for K-8 children. Registration will be from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Five rounds will be played at 10 a.m., 11:20 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Time control is 30 minutes per player per game.

The awards ceremony is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. with top five in each section. For more information contact Hector Hernandez at (773) 895-3291.

“Your Property Taxes”

By Maria Pappas

My office is managing \$105 million in potential refunds for property tax overpayments going back 20 years that I'm eager to return. But determining who's entitled to a refund isn't simple.

Most overpayments occurred because more than one person paid the same tax bill. Reasons why duplicate payments were made include:

Both the property owner and the property owner's mortgage company paid the property tax bill.

Both spouses paid the property tax bill without telling the other; or

Two or more mortgage companies, banks or title companies paid the same taxes during a property purchase or refinancing.

You may be entitled to a refund even if you bought or sold your property long ago. The law allows refunds for duplicate payments made as many as two decades ago. So even if you've moved, you're still entitled to that refund.

Ella McWilliams learned she'd be receiving a refund after discovering there was a substantial overpayment back in 2004 when both the title company and mortgage company made payments. She made overpayments in 2007, 2008 and 2009 which added up to just under \$1,350.

McWilliams told the story of her \$1,346 refund as a guest on my "Black Houses Matter" radio show which airs at 11:30 a.m. every Monday on WVON-AM 1690.

The form labeled, "Refund Application: Duplicate & Overpayment" can be filed elec-



tronically and is available online at cookcountytreasurer.com.

Documentation is required to ensure refunds are issued only to the person who made the overpayment.

If you paid cash, a copy of your receipt serves as proof of payment.

If you paid by personal or business check, a copy of the front of the canceled check used to pay the taxes or a copy of the monthly bank statement showing the corresponding check number and payment amount is needed.

If you paid online at cookcountytreasurer.com, you'll need a copy of your bank statement showing the transfer of funds to the Treasurer's Office or a copy of your credit card statement showing payment.

If a mortgage company paid the taxes, you can provide a copy of the IRS Form 1098 indicating taxes were paid for the tax year in question.

Visit cookcountytreasurer.com to find out if you are owed a share of more than \$100 million in overpayment refunds.

Marvel's Spider-Man Exhibition Extended



Photo provided by Griffin Museum of Science and Industry

Due to popular demand, *Marvel's Spider-Man: Beyond Amazing – The Exhibition* has been extended through Aug. 16th.

Since its opening in May 2025, more than 350,000 guests have visited the exhibit featuring original artwork, rare comic books and behind-the-scenes looks at how the "Spider-Verse" leapt from the page to movies, TV and video games.

Visitors can see film props and costumes, explore interactive installations and take photos with life-size statues of Spider-Man, Spider-Gwen, Miles Morales and more.

Artifact highlights include: *Amazing Fantasy #15*, the comic book that debuted Spider-Man. Spider-Man suits

from 2012's *The Amazing Spider-Man* and 2021's *Spider-Man: No Way Home*.

The Green Goblin mask from 2002's *Spider-Man*. Rare notes and corrections from Stan Lee who would often discard his drafts.

Concept sketches, ink drawings and full illustrations of pages from early Spider-Man comic books.

The exhibit was developed by Semmel Exhibitions in association with Marvel and co-curated by comic scholars Benjamin Saunders and Patrick A. Reed, and designed by Berlin-based collective StudioTK.

Guests are encouraged to reserve timed tickets in advance at griffinmsi.org/spiderman.

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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.

KIDS & FAMILIES

Little Learners Story Time for ages 0 to 5. Join us on Fridays, May 8th to 29th at 10:30 a.m. for 30 minutes of songs, movements, and stories. Play time follows.

Birding in the McKinley Park neighborhood on Saturday, May 23rd, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Jessica Fong, Director of Education at Openlands, will lead patrons on a birding experience through the neighborhood.

Toddler Open Play Group, ages 1 to 5 on Tuesdays, May 5th & 19th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Engage with your toddler through a simple craft and creative play.

LEGO Club, ages 6 to 13 on Thursdays, May 14th & 28th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Complete one of our design challenges of use your imagination. Materials will be provided.

Family Fun Series, ages 3 to 13 on Monday, May 18th from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. A drop in activity may include a simple STEM or craft activity, building materials, puzzles, toys, or a coloring bonanza. Parent or adult guardian must be present.

Film Screening of "Yogi Bear" (2010, PG) on Friday, May 1st from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Yogi and his friends must find a way to save the park from closing.

Film Screening of "Bad Guys 2" (2025, PG) on Friday, May 1st from 1 to 3 p.m. The Bad Guys are struggling to find trust and acceptance in their newly minted lives as Good Guys.

Family Nintendo Switch for ages 8+ on Sunday, May 24th, 1 to 3 p.m.

TWEEN/TEEN
Gamer's Choice, ages 12 to 16, on Wednesdays, May 6th & 27th from 3 to 5 p.m. Students can hang out, play games, snack, and use the PCs/laptops and digital equipment.

Chair Exercise At Ping Tom Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct chair Exercise at Ping Tom Park, 1700 S. Wentworth on Thursday, May 7th from 9 to 9:45 a.m.

The class focuses on fitness components including cardiovascular and muscle strength and endurance.

This class of ten incorporates exercises traditionally seen in the weight room setting, mixed in with various aerobics exercises and body weight. All fitness levels are welcome.

Teen Craft n' Snack on Thursday, May 21st from 3 to 5 p.m. A safe place where teens can create and air-dry clay projects.

Need service hours this summer? Ask the front desk for a volunteer application, ages 12-17.

Teen Yap n' Snack, HSA H.S. on Wednesday, May 13th, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

ADULTS

The Adult Book Club will discuss "Hum" on Wednesday, May 27th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

ESL Conversation Cafe with Aquinas Literacy Center, ages 18+ on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Practice English in a friendly space and improve speaking and listening skills. Ask librarians to register. Tutoring is also available.

"Living with Prostate Cancer" presented by Wellness House on Mondays, May 4th, 11th, 18th & June 1st from 5:30 to 7 p.m. This series provides research-based tips and strategies for coping with a prostate cancer diagnosis. Feature presentations on exercise, nutrition, and emotional support.

Voter Registration Table presented by Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

Film Screen of "Blue Streak" (1999, PG-13) on Friday, May 8th from 1 to 2:30 p.m. A former convict poses as a cop to retrieve a diamond he stole years ago.

Emerging Adult Mosaic Basics Workshop, ages 17-25 on Sunday, May 3rd from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Create a free DIY mosaic tile with the guidance of art instructors.

Adult Craft Club on Sunday, May 17th from 2 to 3 p.m. Join Shelley to make pressed flowers bookmarks. Registration is required. Children will not be permitted.

Senior Social: "Paint A Wood Flower on Tuesday, May 12th frim 11 to 11:45 a.m.

"Wellness House: "Cancer Wigs" on Saturday, May 30th, 2 to 4:30 p.m.

ALL AGES
McKinley Park Music School Recitals, all ages on Sundays, May 10th & 31st from 1 to 4 p.m.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

Tennis Pop-Up At McGuane Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Tennis Pop-Up at McGuane Park, 2901 S. Poplar ave. on Saturday, May 2nd from 9 to 11 a.m.

The cost is \$10 to register but when you attend, that \$10 will be reimbursed. Wear tennis appropriate shoes and bring your own water. All other equipment will be provided. Register at chicagoparkdistrict.com

Spring Events At Brookfield Zoo Chgo



Photo credit © Brookfield Zoo Chicago

Will, a male okapi born at Brookfield Zoo Chicago in 2015, returned just in time to celebrate his 11th birthday on April 21st. His homecoming comes as part of a breeding recommendation swap to support the long-term health of this endangered species.

Spring events are in full swing at Brookfield Zoo Chicago, including special brunches, after-hours fun, and new events.

Glow Wild: A Lantern Festival of Hope features larger-than-life glowing lanterns, cultural performances, an event-exclusive menu, and free rides on the Carousel and Ferris Wheel open from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursdays to Sundays through May 10th.

Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 10th features a gourmet brunch buffet, bottomless mimosas and a glass of rosé for mom. Every brunch ticket also includes full-day access to zoo attractions.

Come face-to-face with life-size dinosaurs May 22nd to Oct. 22nd. Journey through a massive rib-cage tunnel, climb on a giant fossil, dig for ancient discoveries, and snap epic photos. This experience is free with Zoo Membership or general admission.

Grab your dino costume and have a roaring good time at our Dino Dash! on Saturday, May 30th. Race, jog, or stroll along a 2-mile fun run course within the zoo.

The Roaring Nights summer concert series includes Melissa Etheridge: RISE on June 7th, Blues Traveler on July 24th, and Nelly on July 25th. Tickets include free parking, unlimited evening rides on the carousel and Ferris Wheel, and free all-day admission to the zoo.

You can save gorillas by donating your used electronics at Brookfield Zoo Chicago. Many devices, like cell phones and tablets, contain coltan, a mineral often mined in regions that are home to endangered gorillas. By reducing the demand for mining when you recycle phones, tablets, cameras, cords, and more at the EcoCell boxes located along the Bramsen Tropical Forests pathways, inside the Gorilla Conservation Center, and by the Macaws building.

For ticket information, visit brookfieldzoo.org.

Gage Park Library Schedules Programs

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

CHILDREN

Craft Club for ages to 13 on Wednesdays, May 13th to July 22nd from 4 to 5 p.m. Get creative with us every Wednesday afternoon. All materials provided.

TEENS

Teen Uno Night on Thursday, April 30th from 4 to 5 p.m. Play multiple rounds and enjoy snacks. No experience necessary.

Teen Volunteer Club

FAMILIES

Family Story Time on Mondays, May 4th to 25th from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Join us for a story time full of books, songs and rhymes for kids ages 0 to 6 and their caregivers.

Tuesday Craft Corner on Tuesdays, May 5th to 26th from 4 to 5 p.m. Get creative with us after school. Each week we offer a different craft for the whole family to enjoy. All materials are provided.

CINEMA

Film Screening of "The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants" (2015) on Thursday, May 7th from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Desperate to be a big guy, SpongeBob sets out to prove his bravery to Mr. Krabs by following the Flying Dutchman, a swashbuckling ghost pirate, to the deepest depths of the sea. Paramount Pictures - 1 hour and 28 min - PG

Film Screening of "Big Hero 6" (2014) on Thursday, May 14th from 4 to 5:30 p.m. A special bond develops between plus-sized inflatable robot Baymax and prodigy Hiro Hamada, who team up with a group of friends to form a band of high-tech heroes. Walt Disney Animation Studios - 1hour & 42 min - PG

Trivia Walk At Ryan Woods

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will offer self-guided walk while learning about the role Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders play in conservation at the Dan Ryan Woods Visitors Center, 87th & Western on Saturday, May 2nd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit fpdcc.com or call (708) 771-9632.

Archer Heights Library Schedules Programs

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

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).

Southwest Zine Library Launch Party on Saturday, May 23rd from 2 to 4 p.m. Learn about zines, do some drop-in zine making and other fun activities.

CHILDREN

Family Story Time on Thursday, April 30th, May 7th, 14th & 28th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Start your day with stories, songs and fun for the whole family. For children 0 to 5 and their caregivers.

Messy Art: Wrapping and Weaving on Monday, May 4th, 6 to 7 p.m. Taking inspiration from sculptor Judith Scott, replicate her technique of wrapping everyday items with yarn and other fibers to create bundled sculptures.

LEGO Club for ages 5 & up on Monday, May 18th from 6 to 7 p.m. Put your engineering skills to the test with one of our challenges or use your imagination to build your own creations.

TWEENS & TEENS

High school students who need help with research for a school assignment can request an appointment with our Teen Librarian to review databases, printed sources and other resources. Call (312) 747-9241 to make an appointment.

CPS Strengthens Leadership Team

The Chicago Board of Education announced the approval of two key leadership appointments, Elizabeth K. Barton, Esq., General Counsel for the Board of Education and Dr. Karime Asaf, Ed.D., Chief Education Officer.

By promoting experienced administrators from within, Chicago Public Schools is prioritizing continuity and institutional knowledge to drive the next phase of strategic work on behalf of the more than 315,000 CPS students and their families.

These appointments place proven leaders in roles that influence District-wide operations and student achievement.

Flash Sale For State Fair

The Illinois State Fair is offering a special 24-hour flash sale on adult admission books to celebrate the countdown to the fair.

For one day only, Tuesday, May 5th from 12 a.m. to 11:50 p.m., fairgoers can purchase Adult Admission Books for \$30, a \$15 savings off the regular price.

Admission books can be purchased online at StateFair.Illinois.gov (limit ten per transaction).

Teen Volunteer Hours on Thursdays, April 30th, May 7th & 28th from 4 to 5 p.m. Earn 1 volunteer hour while helping at your library. Remember to bring your time sheet. Grades 6-12.

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

Tween Tuesday on May 5th from 4 to 5 p.m. with Pressed Flower Bookmark. On Tuesday, May 19th, decorate a notebook. Materials and snacks will be provided. For ages 10-14 only.

ADULTS

Adult Book Discussion of "Hidden Valley Road" by Robert Kolker on Wednesday, May 27th from 1 to 2 p.m. Copies are available at the Circulation Desk.

Craft Lab "Bling a Pillow" on Monday, May 11th at 6 p.m. Try a new craft, socialize and have fun. All materials are provided. Register online.

Crime Book Club on Wednesday, May 13th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join a discussion of "A Mother's Reckoning" by Sue Klebold. Books are available at the circulation desk.

Maker Lab for Emerging Adults, ages 16 to 26. Decorate a Tote Bag on Wednesday, May 20th from 5 to 7 p.m. Use a pre-cut heat transfer vinyl design to try out the new heat press to make a custom tote bag.

CINEMA

Join us on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. for films and snacks. Senior Friendly Cinema Sunday, May 3rd from 2 to 4 p.m. Join us for a screening of "The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants." May 10th, "Singin' in the Rain" (PG). May 17th, Tribute to Rob Reiner: "The Princess Bride" (PG) and May 24th, "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" (PG-13).

Family Movie on Sunday, May 31st from 2 to 4 p.m., "The Secret Garden". Snacks available while supplies last.

Step Class At Ping Tom Park

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Step Class at Ping Tom Park, 1700 S. Wentworth on Thursday, May 7th from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Step class involves high energy aerobic conditioning utilizing a step platform. Participants will step up and down, over and around in this fun, up-beat, fast paced, high energy class.

Various step heights are determined by participant's fitness level. All fitness levels are welcome.

Open Studios At Bridgeport Art Ctr.



Provided by Bridgeport Art Center

The Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th st. will conduct 3rd Fridays Open Studio on May 15th from 6 to 10 p.m. Attendees will explore various art studios, interact with local artists, and witness their works in progress. Reserve tickets for free at bridgeportart.com

Be sure to explore the other floors of the Art Center and discover the studios and workshops of tenants. In addition to over 10,000 sq. ft. of gallery space, there are artists on every floor. The Chicago Maritime Museum is open for free on the River Level during open studios.

The 14th Annual Art Competition will be exhibited in the 4th Floor Gallery.

The event is open to artists 18 years of age and

older, who are living or working within 150 miles of Chicago. Work must have been completed within 2023-2026. This juried competition accepts a broad range of art media and styles. Not eligible are functional pottery, jewelry, clothing, accessories, furniture, other functional art, or time-art such as video, sound, or film; or works previously exhibited at the BAC.

Awards are Best of Show, \$3,000; 2nd Place, \$1,500; 3rd Place, \$750; 4th Place, \$250; 5th Place, \$150 and People's Choice, \$500.

The opening reception and awards ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 15th from 7 to 10 p.m.

Visit bridgeportart.com or call (773) 843-9000 for more information and application.

Brighton Park Library Schedules Programs

The Brighton Park Branch Library, 4314 S. Archer has scheduled engaging programs. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday noon to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

The Southwest Collective community box is available for patrons to take or leave toiletries and non-perishable food items.

Family Story Time on Tuesdays through May 26th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join us for picture books, stories, songs and a simple craft or play time. For children up to 5 years old.

Baby Lapsit Story Time and Play on Wednesday, May 6th to 27th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join Mx. Dannie for stories, songs and other fun activities as we practice literacy skills and build a love for books. For babies up to 18 months and their families. Siblings are welcome.

LEGO Club on Thursdays through May 28th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for families with children age 6 and up.

Toddler Time and Play Time on Mondays to May 18th from 11 a.m. to 12

p.m. Ages 18 months to 3 years and their caregivers will sing songs, read stories and do fun activities to build early literacy skills.

Free Homework Help is available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Teen Hideaway on Thursday, April 30th from 5 to 7 p.m. Explore art media, technology, crafts and games.

Visit chipublib.org to register.

English Program At Mexican Museum

Aquinas Literacy Center will conduct "Learn English Through Art" at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th st. on Saturday, May 2nd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participants will describe what they see, share ideas and opinions, learn new words and practice speaking with others.

No art experience is needed and all English levels are welcome. For more information or to RSVP, call (773) 927-0512 or email patrick@aquinasliteracycenter.org

AQUINAS LITERACY CENTER

FOOD, STORIES, AND HOME

A 4-Week Storytelling Workshop
with Guest Instructor Dr. Novia Pagone

What food reminds you of home?

In this 4-week course, we practice speaking and listening in a fun, relaxed way. At the end, you will make a simple project: a photo, a recipe, and a short description. For adult English learners of all ages.

Sessions:
Wednesdays, May 6-27,
from 11:30AM - 1 PM

Registration is required.
To register, call 773-927-0512
email patrick@aquinasliteracycenter.org
or scan the QR code:

Location
Aquinas Literacy Center
1751 W. 35th Street
Chicago, IL 60609

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

Masses at St. Barbara
Bridgeport — 2859 S. Throop
Saturday, 5 PM,
Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM
6 AM & 9:30 AM Sunday Masses
Weekday Schedule (Chapel)
Tue., Thurs., & Sat. 8 AM Mass

Masses at St. Therese
Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander
Sunday Masses
8AM in English
10:30am Cantonese
Weekday Schedule
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass
May 3, 2026

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

Cantonese Mass, 10:30 AM, this Sunday, May 3 at St. Therese

See You in Church this Weekend!!

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Ridge Library Plans Programs

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

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

Homeschool Family Meet Up on second Friday of the month from 1 to 2 p.m. Games and activities will be available for families with kids ages 6 to 13.

Decorate a Poster for summer reading 2026. Pick up a poster board on Saturdays, May 2nd or 9th. Ages 8 to 13. Children can be creative in decorating a poster that will reflect "Chapters of Chicago": Lake Michigan, the CTA, their favorite museum or sports team, their neighborhood or favorite landmark. Posters are due by May 23rd to be put on display.

Open Play on Wednesdays, May 6th & 13th at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 12 months to 3 years can play with various toys and puzzles and meet new friends.

WTTW Kids Learn & Play on Saturday, May 16th at 11 a.m. Participate in fun, guided learning while developing skills in social-emotional development, math and language and literacy. For ages 3 to 5 with an adult

TEENS
"Summer Reading" Volunteer Training Meeting on Saturday, May 16th from 2 to 3 p.m. Children ages 12 to 16 who are interested in volunteering for the summer reading program that runs June 8th to Aug. 1st. Chicago/America's 250th Birthday is this year's theme. For more information email ptyznik@chipublib.org.

ADULTS
The adult book club meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. The May 14th topic is "Glorious Exploits" by Ferdia Lennon.

Saturday Game Day through May 30th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a game or play one of ours: UNO, Skip-bo, Mexican Train, Scrabble, Outburst, Upwards, Rummy 500, Canasta, Chess, Checkers, Sorry and more. No registration is needed.

New Device Advice on Tuesdays, through April 28th from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Library staff will help set up a new device, teach the basics, connect to Wi-Fi, change settings and answer questions.

Spanish Book Club on the first Thursday of each month from 1 to 2 p.m.

Games People Play on Thursdays, through June 4th from 2 to 4 p.m. Once a month we will play only Scrabble, Yahtzee or Trivia games for the two-hour session. Light refreshments will be available. Feel free to bring a treat as well. As always, bring one of your own games or use one of ours.

Estate Planning for Peace of Mind presented by the Chicago Estate Planning Council on Thursday, April 30th at 6 p.m. This 60-minute presentation guides attendees through key estate planning topics - wills, trusts, healthcare decisions, powers of attorney, and beneficiary selection.

SENIORS
Identity Theft Program on Thursday, April 30th at 12:30 p.m. Learn the ways your ID information can be stolen and what you can do to prevent that from happening. Presented by the Cook County's Sheriff Office. Register for events at chipublib.org/events.

Jazz Links Jam Sessions

The Jazz Links Jam Session creates a live performance opportunity where student musicians can learn and grow. Students ages 9-19 perform with one another and mentors at the Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth ct. on Wednesday, May 13th from 5 to 7 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Musicians, parents, students, siblings, and friends are all welcome to attend these free events.

Students sign up on-site, using a QR code, listing three to five tunes they can play and improvise on from memory. The jam session host calls up groups of students to perform and improvise together in front of a live audience.

For more information, visit JazzInChicago.org.

Catholic Committee On Scouting Annual Dinner



On April 26th, the Catholic Committee on Scouting held their annual St. George Dinner at the European Chateau to recognize members and fellow scouts who are members of the Catholic faith and double as counselors and facilitators working with scouts to earn religious awards. The Committee presented Tom Nelson and Dennis Wolfe of the Scouting Alumni Association with the 75 years of Service Award, as well as recognizing the 2026 St. George Recipients Rick Romani and Ann Scoiglette. The event raises funds and holds a silent auction to cover transportation and expenses to send two scouts to the High Adventure Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Scouts selected go on a fourteen day religious trek and retreat. Anyone wishing to support or seek further information on the Catholic Committee on Scouting can contact Chairman Deb Sitz at (708) 363-6547.

Pictured are past and present recipients of the St. George Award, presented to members of the laity and clergy, who have made significant contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in Scouting.

Back of the Yards Schedules Programs

The Back of the Yards Branch Library, 2111 W. 47th st. has scheduled the following events.

CHILDREN
Little Readers Book Club for ages 4 & up on Thursday, April 30th from 5 to 6 p.m. Play phonics and word games.

Reading is an Adventure for ages 3 to 6 on Thursday, April 30th from 6 to 7 p.m. Practice letter sounds, syllables and simple words through reading aloud and playing phonics games while eating a snack.

Semillas! Stories and Theater Program on Saturday, May 16th from 12 to 1 p.m. Enjoy a nature themed story time followed by theater games led by the instructors at Free Street Theater. For ages 5 to 12 and their caregivers.

ADULTS
Adult Book Club: "The Ninth Hour" by Alice McDermott on Thursday, May 21st from 6 to 7 p.m. Set in Brooklyn in the early 20th century, the story begins in tragedy as young and pregnant

Annie, an Irish immigrant, returns home to her shabby tenement apartment to find her 32-year-old husband dead.

CINEMA
Film screening of "Norma Rae" (2001) on Friday, May 1st from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Under the guidance of a New York unionizer, Norma Rae organizes her fellow factory workers to fight for better conditions and wages. Based on a true story. © Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment - 114 Minutes - MPAA Rating PG

Documentary screening of "A Jumpin' Night in the Garden of Eden" (2021) on Friday, May 8th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Originally released in 1987 and re-released in 2021, it tells the story of 2nd and 3rd generation immigrants restoring their cultural legacy. © Michael Goldman | 75 minutes | Not Rated.

Film Screening of "Joy Ride" (2023) on Friday, May 15th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The story of self-discovery centers on four friends who embark on an international adventure. © Lionsgate- 95 Minutes - MPAA Rating R

Visit chipublib.org to register.

Executive Order For Peacekeeping

On April 27th, Mayor Brandon Johnson signed the Peacebook Executive Order creating Chicago's first permanent, year-round Youth Peacekeeping Program by hiring 50 Youth Peacekeepers and 4 Youth Safety Advisors.

The Department of Family and Support Services may grant up to \$900,000 to facilitate the program. The measure builds upon the success of DFSS' summer peacekeeping programs while extending this work year-round.

Youth Peacekeepers aged 16-24 will work on a part-time basis while training their peers in conflict resolution and de-escalation skills, organize youth-serving mutual aid networks, and connect residents with resources and support services. Youth Safety Advisors will be employed full-time to supervise, guide, and mentor the Youth Peacekeepers.

Program participants will collaborate with DFSS to develop a youth resource map which will be integrated into the MyChi My Future app and a future Peacebook app which will be developed alongside the implementation of the "Peacebook" Executive Order.

12th Ward Offers Dog Waste Sign

12th Ward Alderwoman Julia Ramirez has Dog Waste signs ready for pick-up at her office, 3868 S. Archer. For more information, contact (312) 273-9828.

Steelmakers Exhibit At Griffin MSI



Photo credit: Griffin Museum of Science and Industry

One year after opening, *Steelmakers* at Griffin MSI, 5700 S. DuSable Lake Shore drive continues to explore the material that built Chicago's skyline and the communities behind the region's steel industry.

Highlights include oral histories from local steelworkers, including local legend Bea Lumpkin. Beams from Chicago's Home Insurance Building (1885-1931), considered

the world's first skyscraper. Olympic torch made of recycled and renewably produced steel. Richard Hunt sculpture, Angle Form (1968). Inland Steel Skyscraper Model, displayed at the Century of Progress World's Fair (1933) and Steel plate signed by women steelworkers during World War II (1943). NASA Spring Steel Mesh Demo "Tire".

Visit griffinmsi.org.

Church Services

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Sunday, 10 a.m., Worship Service; the speaker is Omar Jackson who will be continuing our series in Philippians. He will preach Philippians 1:27-30.

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., dinner and Bible study. Discussion will be centered on Sunday's sermon topic.

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Youth recital and art show.

ST. BRUNO CHURCH
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ST. RICHARD CHURCH
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Mass scheduled for Thursday, April 30th, St. Bruno, 8 a.m., Misa Diaria; 3 to 6 p.m. Adoration. Friday, May 1st: St. Richard Church, 8 a.m. Daily Mass; 5 p.m. Adorations and confession; 6 p.m. Polish Mass.

Saturday, May 2nd, St. Bruno, 8 a.m. Polish Mass, 4 p.m. Confession, 4:30 p.m. English Mass and 6 p.m. Devocion Mariana.

Sunday, May 3rd, St. Richard Mass: 7:30 a.m. Polish, 9 a.m. English, 10:30 a.m. Spanish. St. Bruno Mass: 10:30 a.m. Polish, 12:30 p.m. Spanish, and 7 p.m. Spanish.

Mother's Day Run & Walk

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct a Mother's Day Fun Run & Walk at Dan Ryan Woods, 83rd & Western on Sunday, May 10th at 8 a.m.

Celebrate with family-friendly activities and treats. For registration, visit fpdcc.com/events

Chinatown Library Schedules Programs

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

Game On: Board Game Play for ages 13 & up on the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Multilingual Playgroup on Friday, May 1st & 15th from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. A bi-weekly playgroup for children, ages 0 to 5 who speak Mandarin or Cantonese Chinese.

Family Game Day for ages 3 & up on Monday, May 4th from 4 to 5 p.m. Get together to play cards, board games and more.

Family Story Time for ages 0 to 5 on Thursdays through May 14th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Support your child's pre-literacy skills through songs, stories and play.

Twelve Club on Thursday, May 7th from 4 to 5 p.m. An after-school session to hang out, do homework, participate in a craft, enjoy a snack, or socialize with library friends.

YOUmedia Crafternoon: Beading Party for teens in high school on Tuesday, May 5th from 4 to 5 p.m. Join us to bead a beautiful creation. Supplies are available while they last.

Film Screening of "The Karate Kid" (1984) on Saturday, May 9th from 1 to 3 p.m. A bullied teen learns self-defense and self-confidence from a sage handyman. ©Columbia Pictures Industries Inc. - 126 minutes - PG

YOUmedia Crafternoon: "Intro to Zine Mak-

ing" on Saturday, May 9th from 3 to 4 p.m. Join us for an introduction to zine making and create something unique. Supplies are available. For teens in high school.

YOUmedia Crafternoon: "Button making" on Tuesday, May 12th from 4 to 5 p.m. Display your favorite fandom, pronouns, animal, or anything in between. Supplies are available. For teens in high school.

LEGO for ages 5 & up on Thursday, May 14th from 4 to 5 p.m. Drop in for some design challenges and open play time.

ESL: "English Conversation Circle" for adults on Saturday, May 16th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn to be more confident speaking in English, gain new vocabulary, meet new people, and have fun.

Book Swap for adults on Sunday, May 17th from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Bring up to 3 books from your collection that you are willing to give away or swap. Participants will write a few lines about the book they brought.

Origami Cranes for ages 6 to 13 on Monday, May 18th from 4 to 5 p.m. Help us reach our goal of making 1,000 cranes to beautify our library.

Drop In Table-Top Role Playing Games on Saturday, May 23rd from 3 to 4 p.m. We will be playing Honey Heist, where players take on the roles of bears trying to get away with a large heist of honey. All materials will be provided. For teens in high school.

Registration is suggested at (312) 747-8013.

Programs at Beverly Arts Center

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. has scheduled the Chicago Repertory Ballet Spring Performance Series with Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring) set to Igor Stravinsky's iconic score on Saturday, May 2nd at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

R.E.S.P.E.C.T: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin is scheduled for Friday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

Celebrate Mother's Day Weekend with an unforgettable night of legendary soul. Sound-tracks of a Generation features vocalist LaShera Moore Ellis, backed by a 10-piece band led by Music Director and guitarist Chris Forte.

The awards reception for ART COMP 49 is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th from 2 to 4 p.m.

Join us on Saturday, June 20th from 7:30 to 10 p.m. for our Summer of Soul concert. Sound-tracks of Generation will perform the music of Motown and the Philadelphia Soul scene. The Mo Soul Revue features an 11 piece lineup with three lead vocalists and the Mo

Better Horns with songs by The O'Jays, The Stylistics, The Jackson 5, The Supremes and the Temptations. Tickets are \$35.

Visit thebeverlyarts-center.com or by calling (773) 445-3838.

Guided Hike Of Bird Sanctuary

The Chicago Park District will conduct a guided hike of the McCormick Bird Sanctuary at Burnham Park, 5700 S. Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive on Saturday, May 2nd from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Participants will be introduced to basic birding techniques, common Chicago birds, points of interest at the Bird Sanctuary and Lakefront. Meet up at the Caracol Gathering Space, and walk to the Bird Sanctuary. Caracol Gathering Space can be found on google at: <https://goo.gl/maps/8QcdFkXE-UpZJqmk28>. Paid parking is nearby along Fort Dearborn Drive. For more information, call (773) 520-6956.



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