

# 19th WARD Quarterly

A Publication of the 19th Ward Youth Foundation  
Matthew J. O'Shea

FEBRUARY 2015

## Mayor Emanuel announces \$3 million expansion at Mt. Greenwood School

On Monday, February 9th, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Alderman Matt O'Shea, and Principal Cate Reidy announced plans for a 6 classroom modular and new playground to alleviate severe overcrowding at Mt. Greenwood Elementary School. The announcement came after Emanuel and O'Shea toured the school and met with a group of parents to discuss the impacts of overcrowding. The project has an estimated \$3 million budget and is expected to be open in time for the 2015-2016 school year.

"Overcrowding crowds out the potential of our students so this is an essential investment in the future of our children," said Mayor Emanuel. "Mt. Greenwood is growing and that is a good thing. But managing that growth in a way that continues to help our students learn is the essential thing. That's why Alderman O'Shea and I are committing to getting this modular unit into the CPS capital budget for next year to help give these students the futures they deserve."

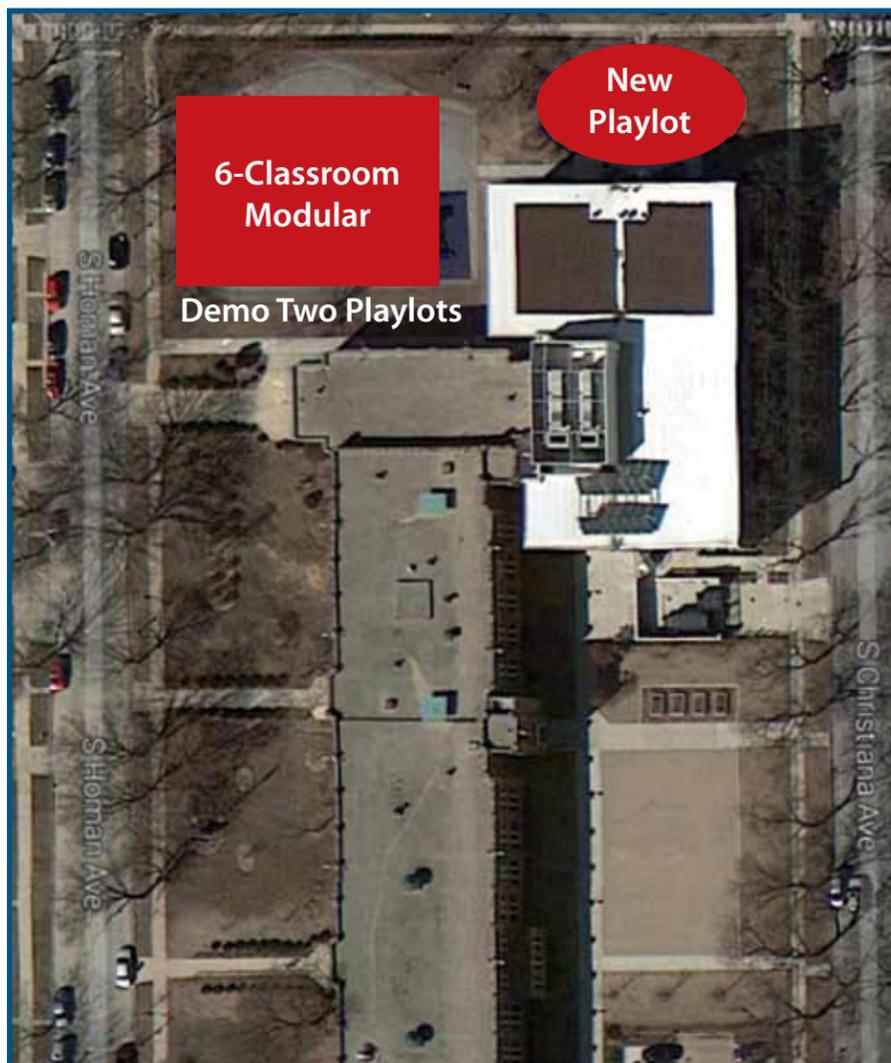
"I have been working to ad-

dress the overcrowding problem at Mt. Greenwood Elementary for two years. Thanks to Mayor Emanuel for getting this done for our kids" said Alderman O'Shea.

Consistently increasing enrollment has created a long term overcrowding issue at the high-performing neighborhood school. In 2011, Chicago Public Schools constructed a \$7.9 million 8 room annex with a cafeteria. Since then the school has continued to grow and today is at 122% capacity.

Both Emanuel and O'Shea made it clear that the modular is a short term solution as enrollment projections in the area continue to climb. Last summer, CPS installed an eight classroom modular and playground at neighboring Cassell Elementary School to address overcrowding there. That project had a \$3.5 million budget.

Moving forward, O'Shea is committed to working with CPS and the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences on a possible 7th & 8th grade program for Mt. Greenwood students.



## Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast – 2/22

19th Ward Alderman Matthew O'Shea will host a pancake breakfast benefitting the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's "Get Behind the Vest" initiative on Sunday, February 22, 2015 at St. Christina School from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Through the Get Behind the Vest campaign, The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation is actively working to raise nearly four million dollars to replace 8,000 outdated bullet proof vests currently in use by Chicago Police officers. This cause is particularly important to the residents of the 19th Ward, as the communities of Beverly, Morgan Park and Mt. Greenwood are home to thousands of active and retired Chicago Police Officers.

Admission to the Pancake Breakfast is \$5 per person or \$25 for families. All money raised will be donated to the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's "Get Behind The Vest" initiative.

"Throughout my career, I have seen first-hand how the dedicated men and women of the Chicago Police Department put their lives on

the line each and every day," said Alderman O'Shea. "This is a cause that that really strikes a chord in our community, as thousands of active police officers live in our neighborhood and protect the streets of our city. In the past several years, we have seen a marked increase in police officer deaths in the United States as a result of

firearms. Bullet proof vests are an integral tool in saving the lives of our police officers. It is my hope that the money raised from this pancake breakfast will help to off-

set some of the cost of life-saving vests for members of our police department who protect our citizen's lives."

In addition to the Pancake Breakfast, several local elementary schools in the 19th

Ward will be participating in a special "dress down" day Friday, February 20, to raise funds for Get Behind the Vest.

Chicago Police Officers receive a bulletproof vest when they are first hired, however, the average life span of a bullet proof vest is 5-7 years. Officers are responsible for replacing their own vests, at an average cost of \$500.

The Pancake Breakfast is generously supported by Ald. Matt O'Shea, the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, 19th Ward Youth Foundation, The Original Pancake House, Mt. Greenwood Community and Business Association, Senator Bill Cunningham, State Representative Fran Hurley, and St. Christina Catholic Parish.

St. Christina School is located at 3333 West 110th Street in the city of Chicago.

For more information on this event, please call 773.238.8766. For more information on the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's Get Behind the Vest initiative, please visit [www.getbehindthevest.org](http://www.getbehindthevest.org).



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# NOTES FROM THE



# 19th Ward YOUTH FOUNDATION

Dear Neighbor,

2015 will be a very exciting year for the communities of Beverly, Morgan Park & Mount Greenwood. This summer, we will open the new Morgan Park Sports Center, an \$18 million state-of-the-art indoor ice rink and gymnastics facility at the corner of 115th & Western Ave. Burling Builders has made great progress thus far; with most of the outer walls up residents have a good idea of what the building will look like.

This coming weekend, our community will celebrate Valentine's Day and hopefully show some "love" for our local businesses. Love Your Local Business is a new shop local campaign spearheaded by the 95th St. Business Association, Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association, Mt. Greenwood Community & Business Association, Beverly Area Planning Association and my office. In this issue, please check out some of the great events and discounts planned for the weekend. If possible, try to stop into at least one local business this weekend.

Below, I have included a map of our community police beats and a schedule of local CAPS meetings. These meetings give residents the opportunity to become acquainted with the police officers who patrol our streets on a daily basis. The Chicago Police Department is committed to keeping our community safe.

If you have any questions or would like information included in our next issue, please contact [mattoshea@the19thward.com](mailto:mattoshea@the19thward.com). To receive regular community updates, visit our website at [www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com) and sign up for our e-mail distribution list.

Thank you,

Matthew J. O'Shea  
19th Ward Youth Foundation

## CAPS Meeting Calendar

### BEATS 2211 & 2212

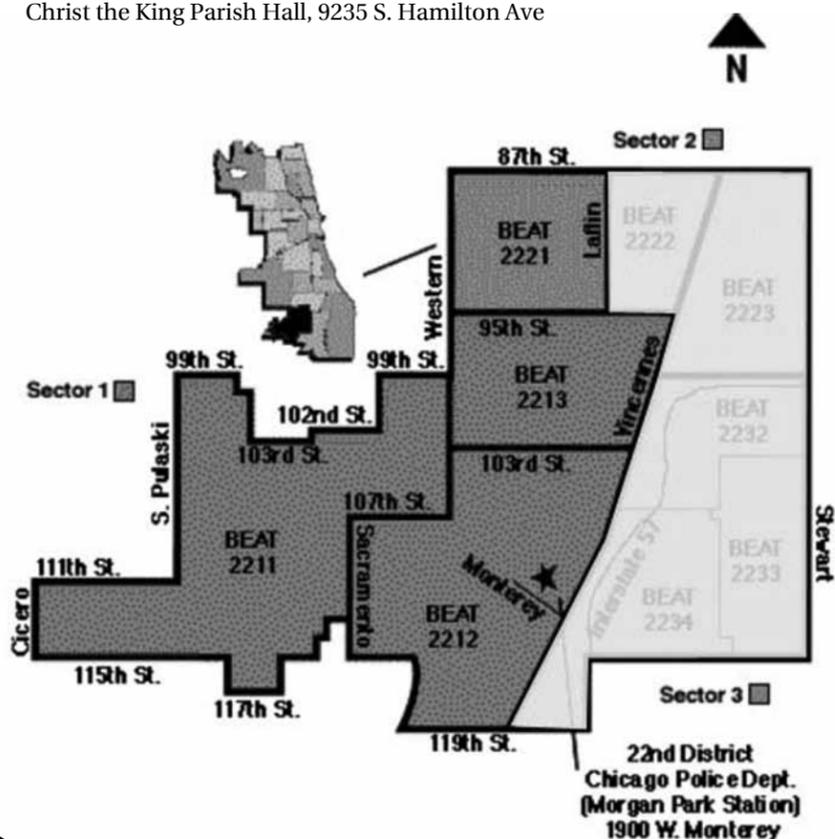
First Thursday of the month at 7:00pm  
March, May, June, August, October, December  
22nd District Police Station, 1900 W. Monterey Ave.

### BEAT 2213

Second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm  
March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November  
Ridge Park, 9625 S. Longwood Dr.

### BEAT 2221

First Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm  
March, April, May, June, July, September, October, Nov.  
Christ the King Parish Hall, 9235 S. Hamilton Ave



# Quarterly

A 19th Ward Youth Foundation Publication  
Matthew J. O'Shea, Alderman

### Beverly / Morgan Park Service Office

10400 S. Western Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60643-2508  
(773) 238-8766 (phone)  
(773) 672-5133 (fax)  
[colleen@the19thward.com](mailto:colleen@the19thward.com)

### Mount Greenwood Service Office

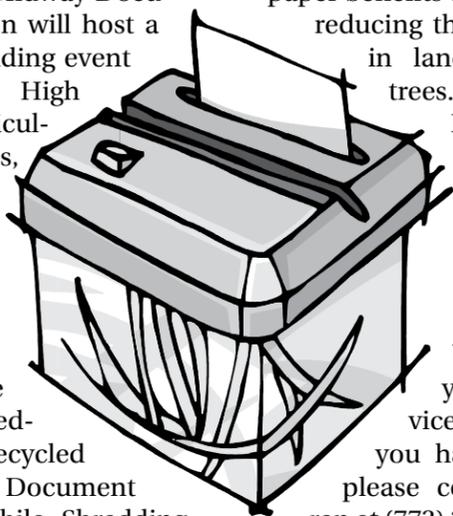
3215 W. 111th St.  
Chicago, IL 60655  
(773) 238-8776 (phone)  
(773) 672-5130 (fax)  
[hayes@the19thward.com](mailto:hayes@the19thward.com)

### City Hall Office

121 N. LaSalle St., Room 200  
Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 744-3072  
[www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com)

# 19th Ward to Host Free Shredding Day

On Saturday, March 7, 2015 the 19th Ward and Midway Document Destruction will host a free paper shredding event at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, 3857 W. 111th St., from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Residents can bring any old or unwanted papers to the school to be shredded and later recycled by the Midway Document Destruction Mobile Shredding Truck. Shredding documents helps



prevent identity theft, recycling the paper benefits the environment by reducing the amount of waste in landfills and sparing trees.

Please note, all documents must be loose in order to be shredded; all paper clips, metal binders, rubber bands etc. must be removed before you arrive. This service is free of charge. If you have any questions, please contact Moira Curran at (773) 238-8766 or moira@the19thward.com.

# Senior Property Tax Exemptions

The Cook County Assessor has extended the deadline to April 1, 2015 for senior citizens to apply for the property tax exemptions. Property owners who are eligible for the Senior Exemption and or the Senior Freeze are required to fill out the forms in order for the proper exemptions to appear on the second installment property tax bill. The Cook Coun-



ty Assessor's Office has mailed exemption forms to any property owner who has previously qualified for these cost saving programs. The forms, as well as descriptions and eligibility guidelines can also be obtained from www.cookcountyassessor.com. You can also reach the Assessor's Office by phone at (312) 443-7550.

# Vote Early at Mt. Greenwood Park

Early voting for the February 24, 2015 Municipal Election will be offered from Monday, February 9th through Saturday, February 21st. Residents in our community can vote early at Mt. Greenwood Park, 3721 W. 111th St., or at the Chicago Board of Elections, 69 W. Washington St., Monday through Saturday from 9am to 5pm and Sunday from

9am to 3pm. Voters do not need a reason or excuse to vote early but you will be required to present a government issued photo ID before receiving your ballot.

For more information about early voting, please visit www.chicagoelections.com or call (312) 269-7900.

# Town Hall Meeting - 3/9

On Monday, March 9, 2015, the 19th Ward, East Beverly Association, and Vanderpoel Improvement Association will co-host a town hall meeting at Bethany Union Church, 1750 W. 103rd St. at 7:00pm. There, Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, Representative Fran Hurley and



22nd District Chicago Police Commander Dan Godsel will discuss their work in our community. A variety of city agencies and departments will also be present to address individual concerns from residents. If you have any questions, please contact Moira Curran at (773) 238-8766 or moira@the19thward.com.

7th Annual

# 19th Ward

YOUTH FOUNDATION

**Sunday, February 22, 2015**

Mount Greenwood Park Ice Rink  
3721 W. 111th Street

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

\$1 suggested donation

## Family Ice Skating Party

SPONSORED BY:

ALDERMAN  
**MATT O'SHEA**

STATE SENATOR  
**BILL CUNNINGHAM**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**FRAN HURLEY**

MT. GREENWOOD PARK  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

To receive information about this and other 19th Ward Youth Foundation events, please sign up for our email updates at [www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com)

For more information contact Moira Curran at 773-238-8766 or moira@the19thward.com

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## Shop Local this Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is often associated with romance, but it is also a perfect time to celebrate relationships among friends, relatives and even businesses.

This month, local shoppers and businesses will have an opportunity to demonstrate their loyalty and affection for one another with the Love Your Local Business program, which takes place Feb. 13-15.

Sponsored by the Beverly Area Planning Association, the 95th Street Business Association, the Mt. Greenwood Community and Business Association and the Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association, in conjunction with 19th Ward Ald. Matt O'Shea, the program features a variety of special offers, discounts and events at more than 60 businesses in the Beverly/Morgan Park and Mt. Greenwood communities.

Designed to boost awareness of and stimulate sales at local businesses, the program provides

shoppers with opportunities to save money, win free items and try products and services that may be new or unfamiliar.

For instance, shoppers are invited to stop in to Sports and Ortho Physical Therapy, 10909-11 S. Western Ave., for a free 10-minute trial on its anti-gravity treadmill, or experience one or more of the fitness and wellness classes offered throughout the day at NI Physical Therapy and Wellness Center, 11113 S. Western Ave., for only \$15. Discounts on merchandise and services include 50 percent off in-

stock merchandise at Beverly Hills Gallery, 2135 W. 95th St.; 20 percent off store merchandise at Figlia Accessories Boutique, 9907 S. Walden

Pkwy.; 15 percent off regularly-priced sparkling wine at Town-Armanetti Liquor, 10000 S. Western Ave.; and a certificate for a buy-one-get-one-free tax return preparation when shoppers visit Wilson Rogers & Co., Inc., 2055

W. 95th St., on Feb. 14.

In addition, drawings for two club-level Blackhawks tickets and a parking pass at Kean Bros. Gas Station, 2632 W. 111th St.; a basket of gourmet foods at Markland

Hubbard, 1739 W. 99th St.; and a free conditioning treatment, blow dry and makeup application at Everything's Relative-Beverly, 10548 S. Western Ave., provide shoppers with an incentive to make purchases.

Like the successful Deal of the Day campaign held locally during the Christmas shopping season, the Love Your Local Business program aims to highlight the breadth of retailers, restaurants and service providers in the local commercial districts while allowing business owners to "share the love" with the shoppers that support them throughout the year.

For a full listing of Love Your Local Business participants, see the posters in area businesses and the ads in the Feb. 11 Beverly Review, the February Villager and the February 19th Ward Quarterly. More information about the program is also available at mpbhba.org and at the19thward.com.



## Kerry Lynch Honored with Unsung Heroine Award

Kerry Lynch, of North Beverly, will be honored as one of Cook County's Unsung Heroines on March 5th for her efforts teaching the importance of empathy and kindness to area school children. Three-year-old Mary Cate Lynch

was born with Apert Syndrome, a rare craniofacial condition that affects her head, feet, and hands. Determined to spread awareness of this syndrome, and give Mary Cate the happiest life possible, Kerry has visited over 70 local schools

showing students how to embrace differences.

Lynch's presentation is both simple and powerful; she captures attention with personal experiences and examples from the award winning children's book *Wonder*. Visits conclude with a question and answer session that can often last over an hour. Kindness is the cornerstone of Kerry's message as she reminds kids to "Be kind; everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about." Before leaving, students take a pledge to choose kind by reciting a quote from *Wonder* - "When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind."

"The Lynchs are extraordinary people. I've seen two of Kerry's presentations and I cannot say enough about them. She and Mary Cate have done an incredible service to our community. Kerry is the perfect choice for this award" said

Alderman Matt O'Shea. "Kerry's message is both timely and important as parents of young children everywhere seek different ways to deal with bullying. We should all be teaching young people to choose kind." said State Rep. Fran Hurley, who, along with O'Shea nominated Lynch for this honor.

The Unsung Heroine Award Ceremony is sponsored by the Cook County Commission of Women's Issues in recognition of Women's History Month. One heroine is honored from each of the County's seventeen board districts and one at large heroine. They are women who, either in a professional or volunteer capacity have made significant contributions to the well-being of their community for which they have not received widespread recognition.

For more information on Mary Cate please visit [www.mymarycate.org](http://www.mymarycate.org) or @MyMaryCate.



## Support the Family of Officer Flisk at Upcoming Trial

The trial of Timothy Herring, Jr., the man charged with the murder of Chicago Police Officer Michael Flisk, and CHA Officer Stephen Peters, has been tentatively scheduled for April 26, 2015. Alderman Matt O'Shea is organizing a group of residents to attend this trial in support of the victims' families. If you are interested in attending this trial, please e-mail [mattoshea@the19thward.com](mailto:mattoshea@the19thward.com).

On November 26, 2010, our neighbor, Officer Michael Flisk, was dispatched to the 8100 block of South Burnham Avenue to collect evidence from CHA Officer Stephen Peters' vehicle. Peters' ve-

hicle had been broken into and had its stereo equipment stolen.

Officer Flisk was collecting fingerprint evidence from the vehicle when the offender, Timothy Herring, Jr., returned to the scene. In an effort to evade arrest, Herring told Peters that he knew who had broken into the vehicle. Peters replied that Officer Flisk had recovered fingerprints from the vehicle.

Herring, a parolee, understood it would only be a matter of time before police traced the fingerprints back to him-through his previous arrest records. He was determined not to return to prison after having served a six-year prison sen-

tence for armed robbery. Herring pretended to walk away when he removed his gun and shot both officers. He left the scene and attempted to discard the stolen radio equipment when he noticed one of the officers moving. He walked back to the officers and shot them again. Officer Flisk and Officer Peters, 44, died at the scene.

Timothy Herring, Jr., 19, was charged with two counts of first-degree murder. Police Officer Michael Flisk, 46, was a father of three and a 20-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, assigned to the Forensic Services Department.





# Beverly Arts Center

Tickets/more info  
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dance, music and fitness to foster



and develop imagination, concentration,  
leadership, teamwork, and creativity. Catalog  
also includes our popular **Pick n' Choose One  
Day Workshops** — try a class or two for some  
short and sweet fun! Fly solo or bring your sig-  
nificant other, some pals or your kids.

### Mainstage Live!

**Siegel Schwall**  
Fri, Mar 6, 8pm  
\$30/\$27 BAC member



Legendary blues artists Corky Siegel  
and Jim Schwall are joined by famed  
bassist Rollo Radford and renowned  
drummer Sam Lay. **WDCB/WXRT  
blues host Tom Marker emcees!**



**Tartan Terrors  
Comedy in Kilts!**  
Fri, Mar 13, 8pm  
\$31/\$28 BAC member

Award-winning step dancers,  
comedic performers and  
musicians mix rock's energy

with traditional folklore, classic pipes and fiddle, dance, and  
humor. **Kick off your St. Paddy celebration at the BAC!**

**A Tribute to Barbra Streisand Fri, Mar 27, 8pm**  
Starring Sharon Owens

### Get In Get Art

**Get In, Get Messy**  
Sun, Feb 22, 2 - 4pm **FREE EVENT!**

Creative and messy activities for all ages including Paint like  
Pollock, messy cookie decorating, salt dough sculpture, improv,  
bucket drumming. For adults we have Reverse the Mess:  
Organizing Workshop, wheel throwing, and more!



**Get In, Get Irish Parade Day Fun**  
Sun, March 15, 11am - 4pm, \$5 or \$10/family

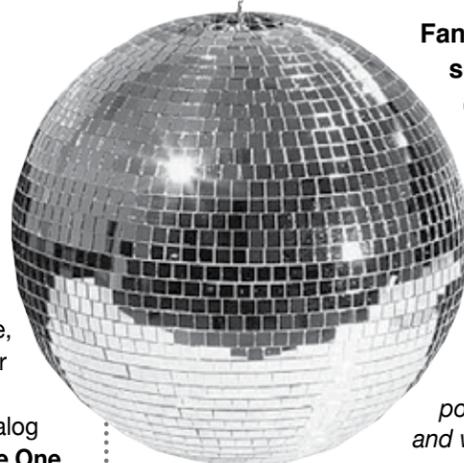
Join us on South Side Irish Parade Day and enjoy  
family fun with food, beverages, crafts, and more!

### Art Gallery | Exhibitions

#### Accretion

Feb 20 - March 22, East Gallery  
Reception/Artist Talk: March 7, 6-8pm **FREE EVENT!**

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their experimental, interdisciplinary artwork that moves fluidly  
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**SAT, FEB 21, 6 PM**

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### BAC Professional Theatre Series

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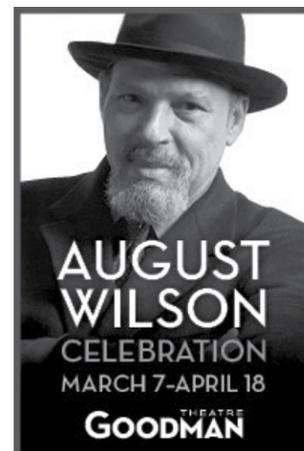
This unprecedented citywide exploration  
of August Wilson's work includes concert  
readings, panel discussions, special  
events and a revival of Wilson's master-  
piece, *Two Trains Running*. Learn more  
at [GoodmanTheatre.org/AugustWilson](http://GoodmanTheatre.org/AugustWilson).

Join us at the BAC for a professionally  
staged concert reading of:

**Joe Turner's  
Come and Gone**  
Sat, March 28, 2pm, **FREE Event**

Reading by **MPAACT**  
Directed by Reginald Lawrence

Wilson dramatizes the plight of African Americans during the  
Great Migration in Joe Turner's *Come and Gone*. Seth and Bertha  
Holly's Pittsburgh boarding house hosts a variety of travelers as  
they journey from the South to find opportunities in the North.  
When Herald Loomis arrives with his young daughter in search  
of his wife, the Holly's tenants help him realize that he has actually  
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# Cunningham proposes tuition tax credit, senior property tax relief in new legislative session

State Senator Bill Cunningham has hit the ground running in the new legislative session by introducing two bills designed to ease the burden placed on area taxpayers. One proposal will double the state tax credit given for education expenses, while the other will allow seniors to automatically renew their property tax exemptions.

Cunningham introduced Senate Bill 15, which amends the Illinois Income Tax Act by boosting the amount of education expenses that can be deducted from \$500 to \$1000. The credit would give parents a much needed break to help keep up with increasing tuition and other education related costs.

"The expansion of this credit is very important to our community given the large number of middle class families we have that struggle to keep up with ever-rising Catholic

school and college tuition costs," Cunningham said. "The credit can also be applied to non-tuition expenses, like book fees and school supplies."

In addition to providing relief to parents of school-aged children, Cunningham is also proposing legislation to simplify the property tax system for seniors to ensure they receive the tax breaks to which they are entitled. Since 2010, Cook County residents over the age of 65 have been required to re-apply every year for their senior homeowner's exemption, creating confusion and red tape for elderly residents. Previously, the exemption was automatically renewed each year. but a review of tax records indicated that senior exemptions often remained in place for properties that were sold to new, younger home buyers. Concerns over ineli-

gible property owners receiving the tax break prompted legislators in Springfield to change the law and require an annual application process.

Cunningham is sponsoring legislation to return to the automatic renewal of the exemption, so seniors will no longer have to remember to apply every year. But Cunningham's bill also aims to prevent ineligible homeowners from receiving the exemption by requiring the Cook County Recorder of Deeds and Cook County Assessor to set up a system to cancel the senior exemption on a property anytime it is sold.

"As long as various county agencies are communicating with each other and sharing public documents about real estate transactions, we can prevent homeowners from receiving tax breaks they are



not legally entitled too," Cunningham said. "That is a much more common sense solution to the problem than requiring seniors fill out new paperwork every year to preserve their rights as homeowners."

Both bills will be considered by the General Assembly during the 2015 Spring legislative session.

## State Rep. Fran Hurley Announces Committee Assignments and Community Events



On Jan. 14, state Rep. Fran Hurley took the oath of office as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, marking the beginning of the 99th General Assembly.

Beginning her second term serving the 35th District in the State Capitol, Hurley is focused on hearing local residents' concerns and fighting for the needs of the region. Hurley said this includes boosting job creation in the district and spurring economic development.

"Small and medium-sized businesses drive job creation in Illinois, and the many unique businesses that line our streets are what make our communities vibrant places to live," Hurley said. "I will continue to work with my colleagues, local residents and employers to encourage economic development and make Illinois more business-friendly."

Hurley will also serve on the committees for Appropriations-General Services, Transportation: Regulation Roads and Bridges, Consumer Protection, Health Care Licenses, Labor and Commerce, and Youth and Young Adults. Additionally, she will serve as Vice-Chair of the Special Needs Services Committee.

"I will work to protect funding for our most critical services and shape legislation to help get our state back on track," Hurley said. "Serving on these committees gives me the chance to be a voice for the 35th District on measures

that will impact our children, our public safety, middle-class families and the elderly."

On Feb. 4, Governor Bruce Rauner issued his first State of the State address before the General Assembly. The address did not provide many details, instead some general ideas that the governor favors. It's clear that Illinois needs to be more fiscally responsible, but this should not be done on the backs of hard working families throughout the state. "It remains imperative that we pass budgets that protect funding for our schools and our most vulnerable residents," Hurley said.

When Hurley is not working in the State Capitol, she is in her district hosting community events, visiting local businesses and convening citizen advisory committees to receive feedback on legislation from local residents. To increase accessibility and provide additional assistance to working families, Hurley keeps her con-

stituent service office open until 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Extended office hours alternate between her three service offices in Beverly, Mt. Greenwood and Orland Hills each month.

"I encourage residents to attend my local events and contact my office to learn about state programs and discuss legislative ideas," Hurley said. "To better represent my district at our State Capitol, it's important for me to meet directly with constituents and discuss the issues that matter most to them."

Hurley's offices are located at 10400 S. Western Ave. in Beverly, 3215 W. 111th St. in Mt. Greenwood and 16033 S. 94th Ave. in Orland Hills.

For more information, or to sign up for Rep. Hurley's e-newsletter for updates on legislation and community events, please call 773-445-8128 or email RepFranHurley@gmail.com or visit [www.franhurley.com](http://www.franhurley.com)

## O'Shea to Host Energy Fair

On Saturday, March 7th, Alderman Matt O'Shea and Peoples Energy will co-host a utility assistance and resource fair at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, 3857 W. 111th St., from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. It has been a very tough winter so far, all residents, especially those who may be struggling financially to pay their energy bills are encouraged to attend this event and learn about available resources. Representatives from Peoples Gas, CEDA and ComEd will be on site at the fair to provide

residents with information on energy assistance programs such as LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and the Peoples Gas Share the Warmth matching grant program. Eligible customers will be available to apply for both programs on site.

In addition, a number of city, state and human services agencies will also have information on programs and resources that are available to assist residents. Peoples Gas representatives will provide information on how customers

can save money and energy by taking advantage of the Peoples Gas Home Energy Rebate Program and the Home Energy Jumpstart Program. Customers who are unable to attend can still apply for LIHEAP funding through CEDA. To find the location of the closest LIHEAP application site, Peoples Gas customers should call CEDA's hotline at: (800) 571- CEDA (2332) or [cedaorg.net](http://cedaorg.net). Customers can also visit [www.peoplesgasdelivery.com](http://www.peoplesgasdelivery.com) for information on CEDA locations.



# Saint Xavier/Morgan Park Partnership Update



more about the dual credit program, we asked one of the participating students to share her experiences below.

## Personal Reflection on Dual Enrollment Experience

By: Kayla Lee

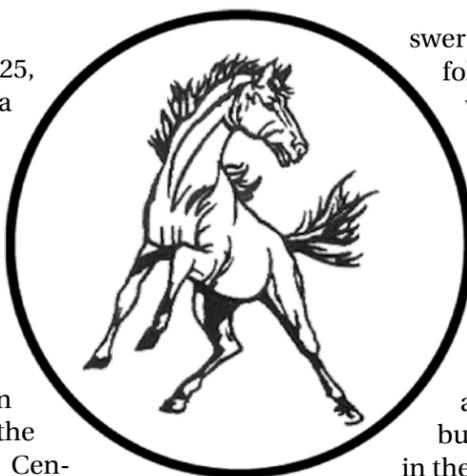
As a dual enrollment student at Saint Xavier University, I have learned to better appreciate my education and the opportunities that are afforded to me. I believe that I have grown as a person and student over the past 6 months because of this experience.

On August 25, 2014, I became a first-time college student. I, along with 3 other Morgan Park students, were no longer looked at as high school students when walking into the Warde Academic Center of Saint Xavier. I, then, became just as capable as all the

other students that attended the school. The class I would be taking that first semester was Human Biology 200.

Within the first week, I realized that this was unlike any class I'd ever taken before. The amount of material we covered in such a short period of time was crazy. Every time we met for class, which was Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, we covered at least one chapter. We were required to read the assigned

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chapters, which could be anywhere between 40 and 80 pages long, and answer the 20 or 30 short-answer questions that followed. These were not vague answers, either. Your responses could be as short as two paragraphs or as long as two pages. Overall, the work load is a lot more intense, but it's all worth it in the end.

Although it would be ideal to say that I was up for the challenge,

there were some times where juggling both high school and college work became quite overwhelming. There had been times when I thought that I had bit off more than I could chew by agreeing to participate in this program. Between the late nights reading, typing essays, studying, checking daily discussion posts online, presentations, group projects, and doing various other assignments while managing high school and maintaining my sanity were enough to drive me insane. Thankfully, my professors were very understanding of that and agreed to work with me, within reason, of course, if I may need an extension on an essay, homework assignment, etc.

Most importantly, I would like to say that the dual enrollment partnership between Morgan Park High School and Saint Xavier University has not only given me a first-hand experience of the academic rigor of the work I will be challenged with upon my entrance to college, but has possibly made for a smoother transition from high school to college for when I start school in the fall. I would highly recommend this program to any student that is willing to put in the work, accept the responsibility, and wants to expand their education beyond what is required on a high school level.

The 2014-2015 school year has been very exciting for Morgan Park High School. Not only did the schools International Baccalaureate Program expand to a "Wall-to-Wall" curriculum, but it also marked the first year of a long term partnership with Saint Xavier University. While this partnership has many different components, one of the most exciting pieces offers dual enrollment for Morgan Park students.

This semester, six students from Morgan Park High School take classes on Saint Xavier's campus and earn college credit. When the students graduate from Morgan Park, they will not only receive a high school diploma, but also a Saint Xavier transcript. To learn

## Barbara Vick Early Childhood & Family Center

# Annual School Fundraiser

**Date:** Friday, March 6, 2015  
**Time:** 7:00pm - 11:00pm  
**Where:** 115 Bourbon Street  
3359 W. 115th Street

**with very special guest:**  
**RAILROAD GIN**

**\$30 advance/\$35 door**  
Money raised during this event will help fund an outdoor green space that will promote healthy eating and living as well as other initiatives that directly impact the students at Barbara Vick.

**21 and Over**      **Raffles & Silent Auctions**

**Drinks & Dinner Buffet**      **Split the Pot & a Grand Raffle**

For ticket information, contact us at  
bvptfl4@gmail.com  
Call Julie, Co-Fundraiser Chair at 773.443.0432  
or Jaimie, Co-President at 708.846.1945

George F. Cassell Elementary School PTA Presents

# CAPE 4 CASSELL

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th**  
**115 Bourbon Street • 7 PM until 12 AM**  
Tickets: \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door • Price includes: Buffet, Beer & Wine  
you must be 21 and older to attend

Tickets can be purchased online at  
<http://cassellpta.corecommerce.com>  
Tickets can be purchased online until noon on February 26th

Tickets can also be purchased using the form below.  
All forms and money must be returned by Monday, February 23rd

**\*\* Purchase your pre-sale ticket by February 23rd and you will be entered in to WIN a prize prior to the event! \*\***  
You will receive an email confirmation that will serve as your receipt. Your name & number of tickets will be at the check in table the night of the event. Please make sure the people in your party give your name.

For ticket information, contact us at:  
[cassellpta@gmail.com](mailto:cassellpta@gmail.com) • call Laura Bastian (773) 410-3216

**CHANCES TO WIN**  
Raffles • Silent Auction • Split the Pot

Entertainment provided by:  
**The Juke Shakers**  
Pirate Electric • Sharioke DJ Express

KEEP TOP PORTION, RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH AMOUNT DUE BY FEBRUARY 23rd

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

**Mark the envelope: Care 4 Cassell Event Tickets**  
**Checks payable to: Cassell School PTA**

# Get Free Energy-Saving Products From Peoples Gas and ComEd



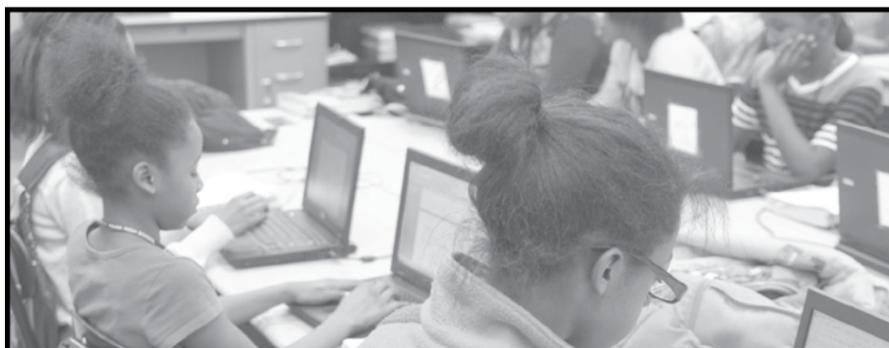
More than 1,000 customers in the 19th Ward already have received free energy-saving products through the Peoples Gas and ComEd **Home Energy Jumpstart Program**.

Join your neighbors in saving energy by calling **855-849-8928** today to schedule your appointment to participate. Technicians will come to your home and perform a free energy assessment and install free energy-saving products that typically include:

- Programmable thermostats
- Showerheads
- Faucet aerators
- Pipe insulation and
- CFLs.

Participants in the **Home Energy Jumpstart Program** also can qualify for a monthly gift card drawing by referring others who sign up. During your appointment, you'll receive a unique referral code to pass along to neighbors and friends. For each of your referrals who participates using your unique code, you'll be entered into a monthly drawing for a **\$25, \$50 or \$100 gift card**. Call **855-849-8928** if you've already participated and would like a referral code. Terms and condition are available at [peoplesgasrebates.com](http://peoplesgasrebates.com).

Visit [peoplesgasrebates.com](http://peoplesgasrebates.com) and [ComEd.com/HomeSavings](http://ComEd.com/HomeSavings) for more information about the program and additional ways to save energy.



## MORGAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Offers 7th and 8th Grade **Gifted Academic Center Program** for current 6th grade students.

Offers accelerated **International Baccalaureate Diploma Program** for Chicago residents. This is an academically challenging and balanced program of education that prepares students for success at university and life beyond.

Offers accelerated **International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program** for Chicago residents. The program provides an academic challenge that encourages students to understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world and become critical and reflective thinkers.

Dr. Carolyn D. Epps, principal  
1744 WEST PRYOR AVENUE  
773.535.2550



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**Cardio | Core Strength | Stretch**

You pick the week in **MARCH** and enjoy **UNLIMITED CLASSES** for 7 days!

Visit any studio to purchase your \$25 pass and present it before class during your week.

Passes are available **March 1st – 24th** and valid for one week from date of issue during **March 2015**. One pass per person. One-week passes are valid for the classes listed. For a complete schedule and more information about the classes, please visit each studio's website.



**SUNDAY**  
8:30 am Spin

**MONDAY**  
5:45 am Spin  
8:30 am Spin  
4:30 pm Spin  
6:30 pm Spin

**TUESDAY**  
9:30 am Spin Fusion  
4:30 pm Spin  
6:30 pm Intro to Spin

**WEDNESDAY**  
5:45 am Core Spin  
8:30 am Spin  
4:30 pm Spin  
6:30 pm Spin On  
7:30 pm Spin Fusion

**THURSDAY**  
8:30 am Spin Sculpt  
4:30 pm Spin  
6:30 pm Threshold Spin  
7:30 pm Spin Fusion

**FRIDAY**  
5:45 am Spin  
8:30 am Spin Fusion  
4:30 pm Spin

**SATURDAY**  
8:00 am Spin  
10:00 am Spin

**BEVERLY RIDE ON**  
2940 West 95th Street  
Evergreen Park  
[www.beverlyrideon.org](http://www.beverlyrideon.org)



**SUNDAY**  
7:30 am Pilates Mat - *intermed*  
9:30 am Intro to Pilates

**MONDAY**  
9:30 am Pilates Mat - *intermed*  
10:30 am Pilates-Yoga Power Flow - *adv*  
5:30 pm Pilates Flow - *intermed/adv*  
7:30 pm Power Barre - *intermed*

**TUESDAY**  
5:45 am Pilates Mat - *intermed*  
8:30 am Power Barre - *intermed*

**WEDNESDAY**  
9:30 am Pilates Mat - *begin/intermed*  
5:30 pm Pilates Mat - *begin/intermed*

**THURSDAY**  
9:30 am Power Barre - *intermed*

**FRIDAY**  
9:30 am Modified Mat - *senior/post rehab*  
10:30 am Pilates Mat - *intermed*

**SATURDAY**  
7:00 am Pilates Flow - *adv*  
9:00 am Pilates Fusion - *intermed*

**CORE FITNESS & PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
2940 West 95th Street  
Evergreen Park  
[www.corefitnesspt.com](http://www.corefitnesspt.com)



**SUNDAY**  
8:30 am Flow  
7:00 pm Restorative Yin

**MONDAY**  
9:00 am Hatha  
10:30 am Therapeutic Yoga  
5:30 pm Hot Yoga  
7:00 pm Flow

**TUESDAY**  
9:00 am Flow  
10:30 am Restorative Flow  
4:00 pm Restorative Flow  
7:00 pm Flow

**WEDNESDAY**  
9:00 am Hot Yoga  
10:30 am Hatha  
7:00 pm Meditation

**THURSDAY**  
9:00 am Flow  
5:30 pm Flow  
7:00 pm Hatha

**FRIDAY**  
9:00 am Hatha  
4:00 pm Flow  
5:30 pm Hot Yoga

**SATURDAY**  
7:30 am Hot Yoga  
9:00 am Flow  
10:30 am Hatha

**BEVERLY YOGA CENTER**  
1917 West 103rd Street  
2nd Floor, Chicago  
[www.beverlyyogacenter.com](http://www.beverlyyogacenter.com)

ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S  
**SENIOR CITIZEN**  
 SAINT PATRICK'S DAY  
**PARTY**

**Thurs., March 12, 2015**

**12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**115 Bourbon Street  
 3359 W. 115th St.**

\$5 Admission includes family  
 style fried chicken lunch

Cash bar available

Live Music

Open to 19th Ward Residents Only

Space is limited, reservations required  
 773-238-8776 or  
 moira@the19thward.com

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***Villa at South Holland • 16300 Wausau Ave. S. • Holland • 708.596.5500***

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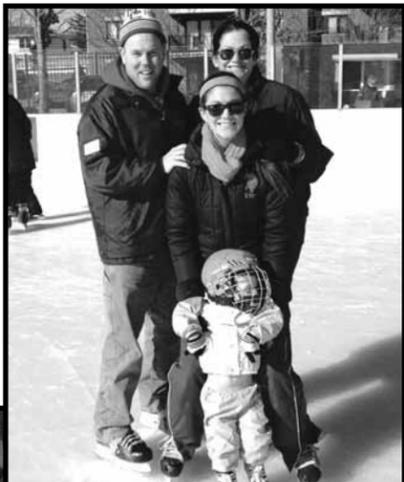
***Park Villa • 12550 S. Ridgeland • Palos Heights • 708.597.9300***

# Family Ice Skating Party at Mt. Greenwood Park

Do your kids have cabin fever? Has cold weather kept you inside since Christmas? The 19th Ward Youth Foundation invites families to enjoy the winter weather with an afternoon of ice skating at the Mount Greenwood Park Ice Rink,

3721 W. 111th St., on Sunday, February 22nd, from 2:00-5:00pm. All ages are welcome.

Admission is \$1 per person and includes skate rental, hot chocolate and refreshments. We hope you and your family can join us and get some fresh air and exercise. The skating party is sponsored by Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, Representative Fran Hurley, Saint Xavier University, the Chicago Park District and the Mt. Greenwood Park Advisory Council. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Hayes at the 19th Ward's Mt. Greenwood Service Office, 3215 W. 111th St., (773) 238-8776 or hayes@the19thward.com.



## Beacon Therapeutic Diagnostic and Treatment Center

Extends deep gratitude to our extraordinary community of givers. You have "warmed the hearts" of so many Beacon children and families.

### We are truly grateful!



Senator Bill Cunningham



State Representative Fran Hurley



Kathleen Strand



Joan and Paul Rowan

### Beacon's 22nd Annual Holiday Supper in Beverly Honorees

Inspire all of us to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable

#### SAVE the DATE

Beacon "Deep in My Art" Show - Beverly Bank, March 26, 2015  
23rd Annual Holiday Supper in Beverly, December 4, 2015  
For info contact Peggy Rourke at 773-298-6441 or prourke@beacon-therapeutic.org



**Beacon Therapeutic**  
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## Connections Learning Center (773) 238-4526

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#### Brain Training:

We can remove the learning barriers and create new brain paths for efficient learning. Through brain training we can rewire the brain and create new neural pathways, which in turn will change how a person learns. It increases cognitive function. *It is life-changing!*

We use proven, effective, results-driven programs that work, thus eliminating the learning struggles.

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- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Auditory Processing Issues
- Language Processing Issues
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Developmental Delays
- Dyslexia
- Executive Function Weakness
- Learning Disabilities
- Memory Weaknesses
- Sensory Integration Disorders
- Language problems

**(773) 238-4526 • 2744 W 111th Street**  
**[www.connectionslearningcenter.com](http://www.connectionslearningcenter.com)**

# Fourth Annual Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence<sup>®</sup> Benefit Day

The GFWC IL Morgan Park Junior Woman's Club announces the Fourth Annual Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence<sup>®</sup> Benefit Day to be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015. Sponsored by Standard Bank and Trust Co., the event brings awareness about the serious issue of domestic violence, and raises funds to help those victimized by it. Thanks to Standard Bank, all proceeds of the Benefit Day will go directly to A New Direction Beverly Morgan Park (A.N.D.), a local non-profit agency that provides counseling and legal advocacy services to families affected by domestic violence. A.N.D. and its adult counselor, Rita Ryan, recently received Little Company of Mary's Ven-

er-able Mary Potter Humanitarian Award for their tireless efforts to fight domestic abuse. Since A.N.D.'s service is provided at no charge to its clients, the agency is funded entirely through donations and grants (it receives no government funding). Community support is vital to A.N.D.'s success!

Participating in Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence<sup>®</sup> is fun and easy. Twenty-three fitness centers, churches, schools and businesses have generously volunteered to be Benefit Day Partners. On Saturday, March 21, each location has scheduled one or more fitness activities. All you do is choose the time and place and show up! Whether you are a regular at a fitness center, occasionally attend a tennis drill or spin session, or have just thought about trying a boot camp, you will find a fun activity that suits you in the Benefit Day Schedule. Bring your donation (\$25 is the suggested amount) to any Benefit Day location.

If you can't participate on March 21, there are other ways to support this important cause. You can make a donation to A.N.D. online at their website, [www.anew-](http://www.anew-)

[directionbmp.org](http://directionbmp.org). You may also purchase an event t-shirt (\$15) during the month of March at one of the following locations:

- Standard Bank and Trust Co. (2400 W. 95th St. location only)
- Everything's Relative Beverly (10548 S. Western Avenue)
- Belle Up Boutique (1915 W. 103rd Street)
- Tranquility Salon (9909 South Walden Parkway)
- St. Barnabas Church (10120 South Longwood Drive- After Mass on 3/1 and 3/8)

Cash or checks made payable to "A New Direction Beverly Morgan Park" will be accepted for all donations. Credit cards are only accepted online.

The GFWC IL Morgan Park Junior Woman's Club is a local chapter of The General Federation of Women's Clubs, a national organization with over 100,000 members. They are a diverse group of women dedicated to making a difference in our community. Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence<sup>®</sup> Benefit Day is one of several events they organize. For Benefit Day Schedule updates, and to learn more about membership and volunteer opportunities with this organization, email [morganparkjuniors@yahoo.com](mailto:morganparkjuniors@yahoo.com) or visit their Facebook page and website <https://morganparkjrs.wordpress.com>.

**Work Out to  
Wipe Out  
Domestic Violence**

Organized by GFWC IL Morgan Park Junior Woman's Club



## Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence<sup>®</sup> Benefit Day Schedule for Saturday, March 21, 2015

Beverly Ride On 2940 W. 95th St. <a href="http://beverlyrideon.org">beverlyrideon.org</a>	Spin Pat Mac's Pedaling Pack	10am 12pm
Core Fitness and Physical Therapy 2940 W. 95th St. <a href="http://corefitnesspt.com">corefitnesspt.com</a>	Pilates Fusion Pilates Mat (all levels)	9am 11am
CrossFit Beverly 2745 W. 111th St. <a href="http://crossfitbeverly.com">crossfitbeverly.com</a>	Crossfit Games Open WOD (Workout of the Day)	9am to 11 am
Devine Nutrition Inc. & Run to the Pub 10426 S. Western Ave. <a href="mailto:devinenutrition@hotmail.com">devinenutrition@hotmail.com</a>	Coach-led Run and/or Walk, Run to the Pub	3pm
Evergreen Racquet & Fitness Club 2700 W. 91st St. <a href="http://evergreenhealthclub.com">evergreenhealthclub.com</a>	Tennis Drills Tennis Drills	9am 1pm
Fit Code 10418 S. Western Ave. <a href="http://fitcodebootcamp.com">fitcodebootcamp.com</a>	Workout for a Cause: <b>Work Out to Wipe Out Domestic Violence</b>	9am
Lisa Espinoza, Soul Care for Your Life's Work BAPA: 11107-09 S. Longwood Dr. <a href="http://www.lisaespinosa.net">www.lisaespinosa.net</a>	Reiki for Relaxation and Stress Relief (call to reserve a session 773-809-5843)	10am to 3pm
N.I. Physical Therapy & Wellness Center 11113 S. Western Ave. <a href="http://naturalinstinctsandyou.com">naturalinstinctsandyou.com</a>	Tai Chi (all levels) Yoga (all levels) (bring mat)	10:15am 11:30am
PURE Barre, Orland Park 14932 S. LaGrange Road <a href="http://purebarre.com/il-orlandpark">purebarre.com/il-orlandpark</a>	PURE Barre class PURE Barre class PURE Barre class	7:30am 8:45am 10am
PURE Indoor Cycling Studio 3354 W. 95th St. <a href="http://pureindoorcycling.com">pureindoorcycling.com</a>	Cycling/Spin Class (call 773-619-3773 or e-mail <a href="mailto:contact@pureindoorcycling.com">contact@pureindoorcycling.com</a> )	11am
St. Barnabas Parish (church basement) 10134 S. Longwood Dr. (773)575-9673 <b>T-shirt sales here</b>	Zumba  <b>following mass, first 2 weeks</b>	9:30am
Shannon Center, St. Xavier University 3700 W. 103rd St. <a href="http://sxu.edu">sxu.edu</a> , keyword: shannoncenter	People on Weights (POW) Cardio Kickbox	9:15am 10:15am
Southside Knockout 3504 W. 111th St. <a href="http://southsideknockout.com">southsideknockout.com</a>	K.O. Training Bootcamp	11 am
Stone Age CrossFit 2700 W. 91st St. <a href="http://stoneagecrossfit.com">stoneagecrossfit.com</a>	Workout of the Day (WOD)	10am
The Chicago Fix, 3139 W. 111th St. Emily Yoga (bring mat) <a href="http://facebook.com/emilyrezetkoyoga">facebook.com/emilyrezetkoyoga</a>	Vinyasa Yoga Slow Flow Yoga Vinyasa Yoga Slow Flow Yoga	8am 10am 1pm 5pm
The Chicago Fix, 3139 W. 111th St. Evolving Fitness and Health <a href="http://facebook.com/EvolvingFitnessandHealth">facebook at EvolvingFitnessandHealth</a>	Primal Bootcamp Primal Bootcamp Primal Bootcamp	12pm 2pm 4pm
The Chicago Fix, 3139 W. 111th St. Steel Fit Kettlebell Club <a href="http://steelfitkettlebellclub.com">steelfitkettlebellclub.com</a>	Kettlebell Fitness Class Kettlebell Fitness Class Kettlebell Fitness Class Kettlebell Fitness Class	7am 9am 11am 3pm
The Studio 9931 S. Wood St. <a href="http://thestudioinbeverly.com">thestudioinbeverly.com</a>	Small Group Pilates Circuit Small Group Pilates Circuit Small Group Pilates Circuit	10am 11:15am 12:15am
Yoga Pathway LLC at Jacob's Well 3450 W. Maple St. <a href="http://yoga-pathway.com">yoga-pathway.com</a>	Yoga (all levels)	9am
Yoga with Donna Wilkinson Chicago Ag High School (gym) 3857 W. 111th St. (773)881-3240	Yoga - All Levels (bring mat) (park on 111th St.)	8:30am

# 15th Annual Chicago Polar Plunge – 3/1

The coolest event in the city, the 15th annual Chicago Polar Plunge, returns to the icy lakefront on March 1, 2015 from 10:00am – 2:00pm at North Avenue Beach. Last year's Plunge was the talk of the town with the participation of Mayor Rahm Emanuel, "The Tonight Show" host, Jimmy Fallon, celebrities, VIP's and a record-breaking 3400 plungers - all dipping their toes in the cold waters of Lake Michigan for the athletes of Special Olympics Chicago. In all, more than one million dollars was raised to help fund the events, activities, transportation and sports equipment enjoyed by over 5000 athletes of the Special Olympics Chicago program.

Registration is now open by visiting [www.chicagopolarplunge.org](http://www.chicagopolarplunge.org). Plungers are encouraged to register early, as registration will close once 4000 participants have committed. At the Polar Plunge website, plungers will have the opportunity to create their own fundraising page to help jump-start their efforts. Registrants are asked to raise a minimum of \$175. Participants are welcome to fundraise and plunge with a team or individually.

Known for its festive costumes and courageous participants, the Chicago Polar Plunge is a truly fun, inspirational and unforgettable

experience. Prizes will be awarded to the top three individual fundraisers; best three individual costumes; best team costumes; and largest team.

An all-new "VIP Club" will be featured, offering plungers the opportunity to head to the front of the line during designated plunge start times. VIP Club members will also receive a VIP Chicago Polar Plunge Bathrobe. For VIP Club status, plungers are asked to donate an additional \$40.

Also new this year, and designed for those who may not want to brave the elements, Chicago Polar Plunge supporters will have the chance to get involved without leaving their warm and cozy homes by taking part in the "Virtual Polar Plunge." Participants are encouraged to fill an ice tub and jump in their own cold "lake" for Special Olympics Chicago. Once they have completed their plunge and raised \$175, those who share their photo or video on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook using the hashtag "#virtualplunge!" will receive an official t-shirt and towel.



All participating Plungers will receive free parking at Lincoln Park Zoo, or a free bus for groups of 20 or more; a souvenir t-shirt; warm towel when exiting the water; free photo downloads; and complimentary food at the "Melt Down Party."

The "Melt Down Party", which will take place after the Plunge has concluded, will be located inside the North Avenue Beach boathouse and in expanded heated tents from 11:00am-2:00 pm. Admission is free and participants will receive free food and non-alcoholic beverages. A cash bar will be available.

For spectators and plungers looking for a weekend in the city, the Chicago Polar Plunge has partnered with the Westin Michigan Avenue, and will be offering a \$129/night room rate for this year's event. For reservations, please call (888) 627-8385.

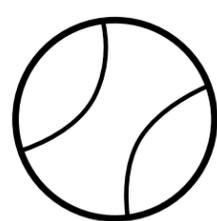
For more information on the Chicago Polar Plunge benefiting Special Olympics Chicago, please call 312.527.3743; or email [polarplunge@sochicago.org](mailto:polarplunge@sochicago.org).

## About Special Olympics Chicago:

The Special Olympics Chicago program is the largest in the State of Illinois. The Chicago Program alone is larger than 26 other complete State programs. Chicago is the birthplace of Special Olympics and is now held in over 150 countries, worldwide.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for children (ages 8 and older) and adults with mental disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. The program gives them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. In Chicago alone, more than 5,000 athletes are involved in the program.

Since 1969, Special Children's Charities has been the fundraising co-sponsor of Special Olympics Chicago, in partnership with the Chicago Park District. Special Children's Charities mission statement is to promote, foster and encourage physical and mental health and improvement through athletics, recreational and social activities among youth and adults with disabilities.



## MT. GREENWOOD BASEBALL let the kids play!

Early Registration, Tuesday, January 27  
Mt. Greenwood Park District Building @ 6pm - 9pm

Late Registration, Thursday, February 26  
Mt. Greenwood Park District Building @ 6pm - 9pm

Age Group	Early Registration Fee	Late Registration Fee
7 (coach pitch)	\$120	\$130
8 (coach/kid pitch)	\$130	\$140
9 - 10	\$135	\$145
11 - 13	\$150	\$160

Fees include uniforms (hat, shirt, pants & socks)

**Questions:** Contact Carlos Lonberger  
at 773.849.5188 or [mtgreenwoodbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:mtgreenwoodbaseball@gmail.com)



## RESTOCK THE THRIFT SHOP

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# South Side Irish Parade Announces 2015 Grand Marshal and Honoree

The South Side Irish Parade Committee announces the 2015 Grand Marshal the Irish-American Labor Council (IALC), a committee of the AFL-CIO, focused on improving and promoting social and community welfare. The council also participates in issues of importance to Irish immigrants in Chicago.

"Irish labor has played a crucial role in building our city and neighborhood," said Tom McGourty, Chairman of the South Side Irish Parade. "The Irish American Labor Council is dedicated to not only building our community but also gives generously to numerous charities including Mercy Home for Boys & Girls," added McGourty.

The IALC was founded in New York in 1987. The Chicago chapter was formed in 1995 with the goal of raising funds to erect a monument in Chicago's Union Park to honor Irish labor leader James Connolly. The completed statue was dedicated in 2008. The IALC honors individuals who work for and on behalf of organized labor at their annual James Connolly Dinner. Each honoree has their name added to the statue in Union Park. This year's dinner is scheduled for May 13, 2015.

International unions and dis-

trict councils with locals who are part of the Irish-American Labor Council include Boilermakers, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Cement Masons, Chicago Building Trades, Carpenters, IBEW, Ironworkers, Laborers, Machinists, Operating Engineers, Pipefitters, Plumbers, Roofers, Sheet Metal Workers, Teamsters and many more. Additionally many civic individuals and professional groups support the IALC.

The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation (CPMF) will serve as this year's parade Honoree. The not-for-profit organization is dedicated to honoring the lives of our fallen heroes. The foundation provides support and assistance to the families of Chicago police officers who are killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

"We are grateful to have the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation as our Honoree this year," added McGourty. "They do an incredible job of supporting and honoring the families of police officers, including several right in our own community. We are thrilled to be able to repay that honor by featuring them in our parade."

The CPMF is currently raising money for the "Get Behind The Vest" initiative. Their goal is to

ensure a properly working bulletproof vest protects every Chicago police officer. Officers are given a vest when they begin on the department but are responsible for paying a portion of the cost for a replacement vest. The foundation is aiming to raise money to replace the 8,000 outdated vests in use by Chicago police officers.

"A vest isn't bulletproof forever, it wears out and breaks down," said John Gordon of the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation. "Vests need to be replaced every five years and we are making it our goal to make sure every officer who protects you, is protected," added Gordon. You can learn more about the "Get Behind The Vest" initiative at [cpd-memorial.org](http://cpd-memorial.org).

The 2015 South Side Irish Parade will step off at Noon on Sunday, March 15th at 103rd Street and Western Avenue. Despite below freezing temperature, the 2014 parade featured 100 entries and attracted more than 125,000 spectators. The zero tolerance alcohol policy will strictly enforced to ensure a continued safe, family-friendly celebration of community and Irish heritage.

#### WAYS TO SUPPORT PARADE:

To offset the rising cost of producing the annual community pa-

rade, the South Side Irish Parade will kick off the festivities with a pre-parade fundraiser on Saturday, February 21, 2015. The party will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 West 115th Street, Merrionette Park, IL, 60803. The family-friendly event will feature raffle prizes a silent auction, the South Side Irish Parade Queen Selection and much more.

Tickets for the pre-parade fundraiser cost \$30 and can be purchased online at [southsideparade.org](http://southsideparade.org) or at the door. Tickets include draft beer, wine, dinner buffet and live music from the Larkin and Moran Brothers and Sean & Charlie. Street pole banners and 2015 South Side Irish Parade merchandise will also be available for purchase.

The Emerald Isle Mile continues to be part of the family friendly South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade pre-activities. The one-mile run will begin at 11:00 a.m. the morning of the parade at 112th and Western Ave and end at Running Excels, located at 104th and Western Avenue near the Parade's stepping off point. Registration for the race is available online at [runningexcels.com](http://runningexcels.com) or at the South Side Irish Parade Pre-Parade Fundraiser.

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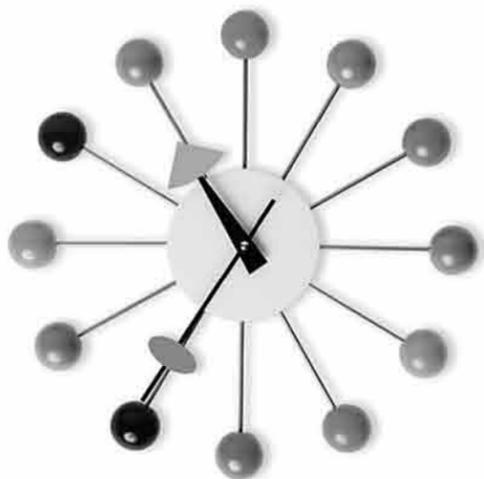
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# Friends benefit from volunteering at Smith Village

Two very special volunteers brighten the lives of residents of Smith Village, a continuing care retirement community at 2320 W. 113th Place. The women insist they themselves are reaping untold rewards, and they recommend volunteering to anyone with time to spare.

When Mary Cosgrove and Janet McGuffage, friends since they were students at Chicago Academy of Our Lady, met for lunch, McGuffage, already a volunteer, suggested to Cosgrove she join her in volunteering at Smith Village. That was in 2010. Since then, both women devote their volunteer time to enhancing the lives of residents.

"After retiring, I wanted somewhere to volunteer," says McGuffage, who taught for 15 years in the Chicago Public Schools. "Smith Village is just beautiful. The place still feels brand new. I thought what a nice place it would be to volunteer my time. Everyone here is wonderful. I run into people I know all the time, and I get such fulfillment from this experience."

McGuffage, a Beverly resident, says she enjoys accompanying

Smith Village residents on outings to the Chicago Symphony, assisting them with shopping trips, as well as supporting residents in their volunteer efforts at Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn and Misericordia, a home for adults with physical and developmental disabilities. She especially enjoys volunteering for on-site entertainment events at Smith Village, where she might be seen transporting residents and generally encouraging everyone to enjoy the event to the fullest.

McGuffage was so positive about her first few times volunteering, it took very little convincing for Cosgrove to sign-up as a Smith Village volunteer as well.

"I immediately enjoyed it," says Cosgrove, who retired from a 30-year career with the Chicago Police Department. "I live right across the street so it's convenient for me too," she says. "Mostly I enjoy the people. Sometimes I'll get a call from Meghan Leonard, Smith Village resident services concierge, when she needs more help, and I'll walk right over."

Like McGuffage, Cosgrove has accompanied Smith Village residents on several field trips. She enjoyed seeing the Picasso exhibit at the Art Institute, attending shows at the Bank of America Theatre and visiting other cultural attractions. She frequently accompanies residents on shopping expeditions to Target, Walgreens, Jewel, County Fair and other nearby stores.

Cosgrove even calls herself "the coat check girl" because she hangs-up coats for women who attend Smith Village's annual Spring Fashion Show. Each year, about a dozen Smith Village residents model fashions for the event, and attract an impressive following from the surrounding area. The combination show and luncheon raise money for Emilie's Fund, which helps ensure Smith Village residents who outlive their means never have to worry about finding a new home.

One Thursday afternoon this winter, Cosgrove worked with a horticulturist, helping skilled nurs-



*Janet McGuffage says volunteering at Smith Village is a warm and inviting experience.*

ing care residents place moss, baby's breath, evergreens, berries and sprigs of eucalyptus inside glass containers. After Smith Village resident Ingrid Mandich thanked Cosgrove for her assistance, Cosgrove shared that she is pleased residents in all lifestyle settings have plenty of engaging activities.

"My mother lived here from 1990 to 1995 when it was Washington and Jane Smith Home," says Cosgrove. "She loved it here. She had her own apartment in independent living."

Like McGuffage, Cosgrove has a teaching background. She graduated from Chicago Teachers College and taught in area Catholic Schools, as well as in Italy on an Air Force Base. She later joined the Chicago Police Department and became a patrolman, evidence technician, and finally crime lab forensics investigator. Prior to volunteering for Smith Village, she volunteered at a camp for people with multiple sclerosis.

Cosgrove and McGuffage are among the 100 or so volunteers who visit Smith Village residents to swap stories, play cards, bake cookies, facilitate special events, assist with craft projects, help travel to various activities, drive residents to medical appointments and much

more. A few volunteers and their therapy dogs also visit. And, one volunteer devotes one Saturday a month to mending residents' clothing.

Smith Village requires volunteers be at least old enough to attend the eighth grade and to attend a one-hour orientation session. Only adult volunteers with valid driver's licenses are allowed to drive Smith Village's sedan to take residents to medical appointments.

To attend the next monthly volunteer orientation at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 7, at Smith Village, apply on the Smith Senior Living website, [SmithSeniorLiving.org](http://SmithSeniorLiving.org) and click on "Volunteer" in the left column.

## About Smith Village

Smith Village is sponsored by Smith Senior Living, a not-for-profit organization serving older adults since 1924. It provides spacious residences and engaging programs for independent living, as well as assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing care. Smith Village also offers short-term rehabilitation services for residents and others requiring assistance after surgery or a medical incident. For more information, call 773-474-7300 or visit [SmithVillage.org](http://SmithVillage.org).



*Mary Cosgrove volunteers at Smith Village and takes pride in serving as the coat check girl for the annual Smith Village Spring Fashion Show.*



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