



Quarterly

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

MAY 2013

CHA Stops Placements at 3225 W. 111th St.

In response to a series of questions raised by 19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) has agreed to stop placing subsidized housing tenants in the building at 3225 W. 111th St. While the property owner's original contract allowed for each of the building's sixteen apartments to be filled with CHA tenants, currently only five are in place. Not only will the CHA to stop future placements at this location, but it is also taking actions to reduce the amount of rent paid to the landlord for the existing five tenants.

In December 2012, McInerney & McBrearty, a joint venture whose president, Edward McBrearty is a Mt. Greenwood resident, sold the mixed-use building at 3225 W. 111th St. to Chestnut Investments, LLC. In March 2013, Chestnut's agent, Noah Gottlieb, met with Alderman O'Shea to discuss future plans for the property; at that time, Gottlieb pledged that all existing tenants were welcome to stay in the building, and a that range of

modest improvements and upgrades were planned for the units.

Since then, it has become clear that Mr. Gottlieb's true intentions were always to remove the existing tenants and enroll in a CHA subsidized housing program. Upon bringing a CHA subsidized tenant into the building, Chestnut immediately doubles the rent, from \$600 to \$1200 per month, for that unit. Those actions not only conflict with the City of Chicago and the CHA's mission for affordable housing, but also use taxpayer dollars to fund substantial rent increases.

Amid growing frustration with the situation, Alderman O'Shea wrote to Mayor Emanuel and several members of the CHA Board of Directors. Specifically, O'Shea noted the dishonesty of Mr. Gottlieb, conversion of units that were already providing affordable housing into the CHA system, and the rental rates that are out of line with the fair market value. Also included was an analysis of the comparable properties used by Chestnut

to justify a \$1200 monthly rent.

Upon a review of the facts provided, the CHA took swift action against Chestnut Investments to address the situation. Currently, an internal review of this property is underway. Once all issues related to 3225 W. 111th St. have been addressed, Alderman O'Shea will push for an investigation into any

other Chestnut properties in the CHA system.

Thanks to Mayor Emanuel, CHA CEO Charles Woodyard, and Chief of Staff Amy Gempeler for acting so quickly to resolve this situation. For more information about this issue, please contact the 19th Ward Office at (773) 238-8766.



Local Businesses Green Taco Bell Lot

For several years, residents have lived with an eyesore at the site of the former Taco Bell at 10457 S. Western Ave. Whether it was a decaying, boarded building or an unkempt vacant lot, this property has long been a black-eye for the Western Avenue commercial strip. In 2011, Alderman Matt O'Shea worked with property owner GDT Properties to have the building demolished in the first stage of improvements at this location.

Later this month, landscape contractor Beverly Environmental, LLC will grade the site, install topsoil, and lay grass seed with an erosion blanket. Hopefully, this site will be transformed into a welcoming green space for the community to enjoy by mid-summer. This community improvement project is a partnership between Beverly Bank & Trust Co., Beverly Environmental, GDT Properties, the Morgan Park/Beverly Hills Business Association and Alderman Matt O'Shea. The greening of this property is a temporary measure intended to improve the site while the owners explore future develop-

ment plans.

Beverly Environmental is seeking community volunteers to assist with this project. Students in need of service hours and other interested residents should contact Tristan Angus at (773) 238-8766 or Tristan.Angus@cityofchicago.org. Special thanks to Beverly Environmental for donating the materials and discounting its labor costs, and to Beverly Bank & Trust for helping to defray the remaining costs. Working together we can improve our business strips.



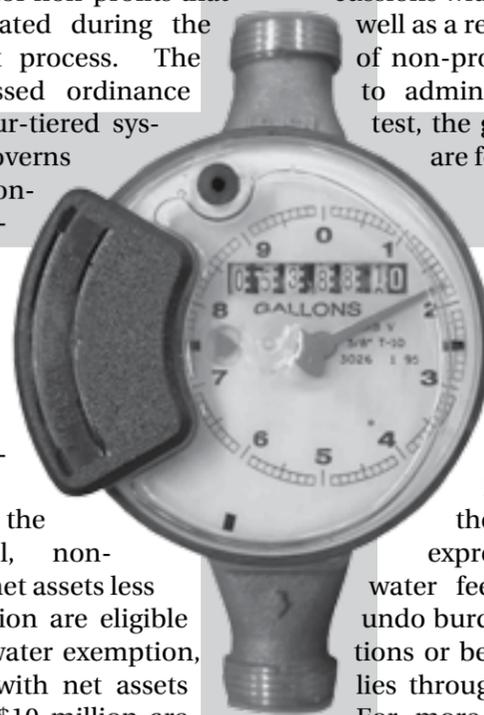
Water Exemptions Restored for Local Parishes

On Wednesday, May 8th, Alderman Matt O'Shea joined his City Council colleagues in voting to restore some of the water fee exemptions for non-profits that were eliminated during the 2012 budget process. The recently passed ordinance creates a four-tiered system that governs how much non-profit institutions pay for their water. The new exemptions are retroactive to the beginning of 2013.

Under the new model, non-profits with net assets less than \$1 million are eligible for a 100% water exemption, non-profits with net assets between \$1-\$10 million are eligible for a 60% water exemption, non-profits with net assets between \$10-\$250 million are eligible for a 25% water exemption, and non-profits with net assets in ex-

cess of \$250 million are not eligible for an exemption from payment of their full water bill. The City of Chicago is engaged in ongoing discussions with the Archdiocese as well as a representative sample of non-profits on exactly how to administer the net asset test, the guidelines for which are forthcoming.

Water exemptions allow local parishes and catholic schools to continue their important work within our neighborhood. Many clergy, principals, and parishioners throughout the community have expressed concern that water fees would place an undo burden on the organizations or be passed on to families through tuition increases. For more information about non-profit water exemptions or for assistance having a water meter installed in your facility, please contact the 19th Ward Office at (773) 238-8766.





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NOTES FROM THE



19th Ward

YOUTH FOUNDATION

Dear Neighbor,

Spring is a very busy time in our community. Over the weekend, thousands of families participated in the 14th Annual Beverly Breast Cancer Walk to support the important work done at Little Company of Mary Hospital. In the coming weeks, we look forward to the 19th Ward's Family Bike Ride, BAPA Home Tour, Memorial Day Mass, and Ridge Run.

In this issue, please find information about upcoming streetscape improvements along our major business strips, as well as updates on our ongoing efforts to address issues at Mt. Hope Cemetery. The 19th Ward also has a variety of community events coming up including a town hall meeting and free paper shredding and electronic waste recycling. Hopefully you can take advantage of these services.

Finally, we have included a map of our community police beats and a schedule of local CAPS meetings. Please note that the schedule for these meetings

has recently changed; please see the map below for more details. CAPS meetings give us 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 me at matoshea@the19thward.com. To receive regular community updates, visit our website at 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

BEAT 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

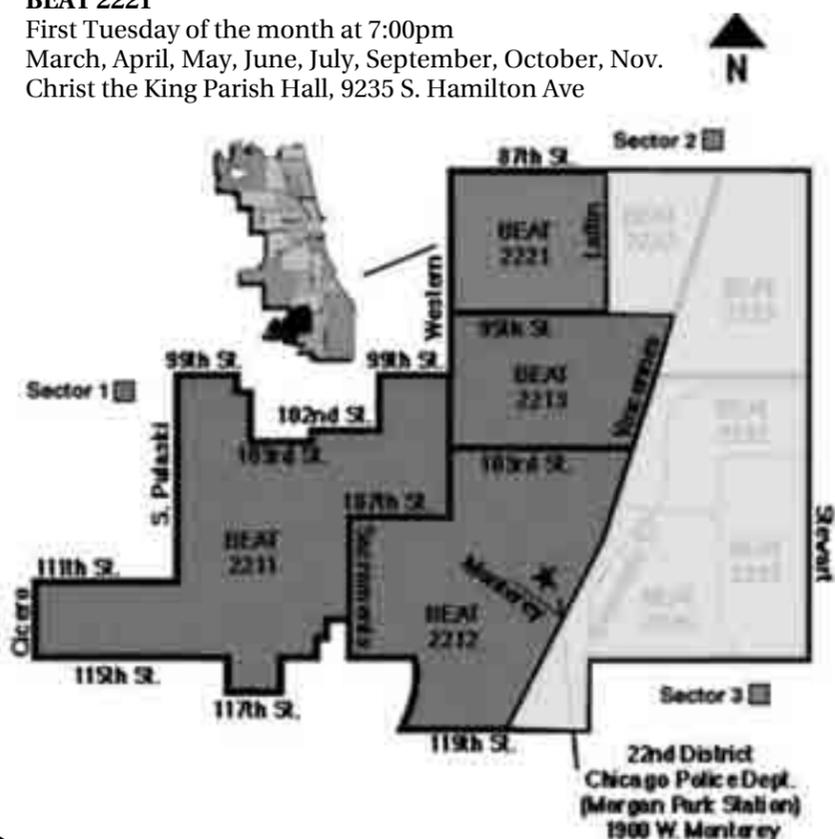
Second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm
March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November
Ridge Park, 9625 S. Longwood Dr.

BEAT 2211

Third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm
March, May, July, August, September, November
Mt. Greenwood Park, 3721 W. 111th St.

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)
ward19@cityofchicago.org

Mount Greenwood Service Office

3215 W. 111th St.
Chicago, IL 60655
(773) 238-8776 (phone)
(773) 672-5130 (fax)
maureen.chausse@ex.cityofchicago.org

City Hall Office

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

Community Calendar

Memorial Day Mass to Honor Veteran's and Active Servicemen

On Sunday, May 26, 2013 the 19th Ward Youth Foundation will host our annual Memorial Day Mass in honor of the brave men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces. The outdoor mass will begin at 4:00 pm on the lawn of the St. Barnabas Convent, 10161 S. Longwood Drive. Limited seating will be provided, guests are asked to bring lawn chairs.

Fr. Tom McCarthy of Saint Rita High School will celebrate the Mass with area veterans and the families of local active service



men and women playing roles. A collection will be taken for Postage for Parcels, a Mt. Greenwood organization that provides care packages to troops serving overseas.

Please join us in honoring the brave men and women who have fought to protect the very freedom we enjoy and remember the true purpose of Memorial Day. For more information, please contact Matt O'Shea at mattoshea@the19thward.com or by phone at (773) 238-0288.

Town Hall Meeting – June 13th @ 22nd District

On Thursday, June 13, 2013, the 19th Ward, Civic Association of Morgan Park, and Old Morgan Park Civic Association will co-host a town hall meeting at the 22nd District Police Station, 1900 W. Monterey Ave. at 7:00 pm. There, Alderman Matt O'Shea and Chicago Police Commander James Gibson will provide an update about their work in the community. A variety of city agencies and departments

will also be present to address individual concerns from residents.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Maureen Chausse at (773) 238-8776 or maureen.chausse@cityofchicago.org. Also, to receive information about community meetings and events like this electronically, please visit www.the19thward.com and sign up for our e-mail distribution list.

City Vehicle Stickers at Ward Office – 6/5 & 7/11

All City of Chicago vehicle stickers expire on June 30, 2013, with enforcement of late fees beginning on July 16, 2013. The City Clerk will mail renewal forms during the last week of May, so please be on the lookout. Stickers can be purchased online at www.chicityclerk.com or at the 19th Ward Office on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 from Noon to 6:00 pm and Thursday July 11, 2013 from Noon - 6:00 pm.

This year, for the first time, residents must have their renewal notice to purchase a vehicle sticker. If you do not have a renewal, you must have an approved document that contains your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). Acceptable documents include vehicle registration cards from the Secretary of State, insurance cards, or vehicle title. Having your renewal form will ensure a quick, seamless transaction so please locate it before purchasing your sticker.



19th Ward to Host Free Shredding Day & Electronics Recycling

On Saturday, June 8, 2013 Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, Representative Fran Hurley, Midway Document Destruction and Sims Recycling Solutions will host a free paper shredding and electronics recycling drop off for residents of the 19th Ward at the Crosswinds Church parking lot located at 10835 S. Pulaski Rd. from 9:00 am - 11:00 am.

Residents can bring unwanted papers to the church to be shredded and later recycled by the Midway Document Destruction Mobile Shredding Truck. Document shredding is one of the most effective tools in preventing identity theft. Shredding documents also has positive environmental impacts; once

shredded, all paper is recycled, thereby reducing the amount of waste in landfills.

At the same time, Sims Recycling Solutions will be available to collect any unwanted or unused electronic equipment. You may bring computers, monitors, television sets, printers, VCR/DVD players, DVRs, PDAs, MP3 players, video game consoles, keyboard/mouse, computer cables, zip drives and cell phones.

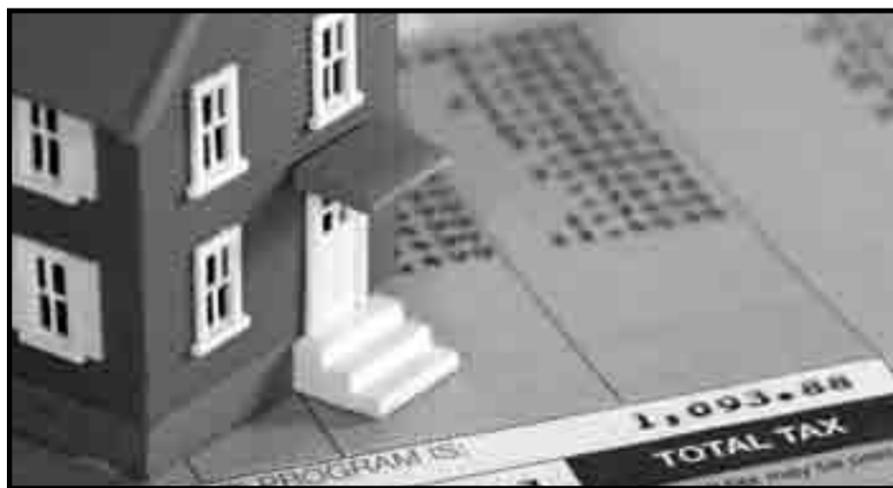
Please note, you may not bring home appliances or other household hazardous waste. This service is free of charge. If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Chausse at (773) 238-8766 or ward19@cityofchicago.org.



Tax Appeals Due by 6/7

The Cook County Assessor's Office will accept property tax appeals from residents in the 19th Ward now through Friday, June 7, 2013. Common reasons to file an appeal with the Assessor are lack of uniformity with similar homes, overvaluation based on recent sales, and significant prop-

erty description errors. This appeal process is for 2013 property taxes which are due in 2014. Appeal forms are available at the 19th Ward Service Office. Appeals can be made online at www.cook-countyassessor.com or in person at any Cook County Assessor's Office location.



Beverly Farmers' Market to Open Sunday, May 12th

Chicago's Farmers' Market will return this summer and fall beginning on Sunday, May 12, 2013. Vendors will be selling fresh fruits, vegetables, breads, meats, plants, desserts, and flowers every Sunday from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm from May 12th through October 27th. The Farmer's Market will be located in the parking lot at 9501 S. Longwood Dr. For more information regarding this and other Farmers' Markets in Chicago, please visit www.explorechicago.org.



Streetscape Projects

Funding approved for 95th St., Walden Pkwy. & 111th St.

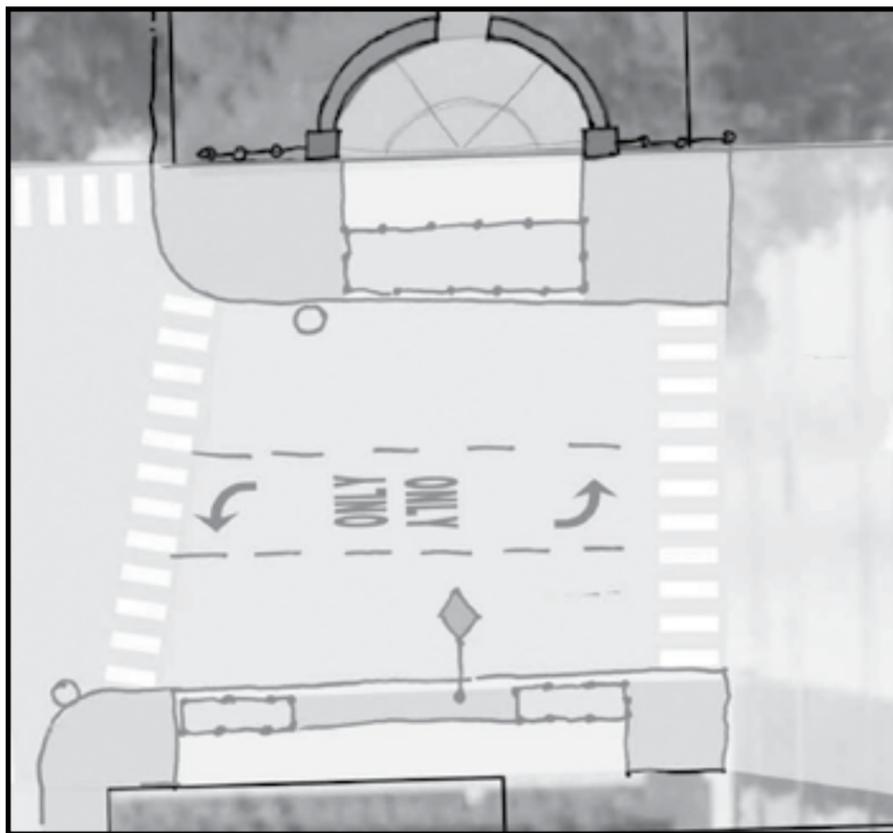
This Spring, crews are completing the final portions of Streetscape improvements on 95th St. between Western Ave. & Leavitt St. The City of Chicago has approved funds to extend the 95th Street project east from Leavitt St. to Damen Ave., as well as start new projects on Walden Parkway near the 99th Street Metra Station and on 111th Street in Mt. Greenwood. We look forward to these projects breaking ground over the next two years.

Walden Parkway Streetscape

The Beverly Ridge Homeowners' Association has worked with area business owners to begin a Streetscape project that would encompass the commercial portions of 99th St. between Longwood Dr. and Vanderpoel Ave. and the 9900 block of S. Walden Pkwy. The project will include upgraded lighting similar to the poles used in the 95th Street streetscape project, a stamped concrete intersection at 99th & Walden Pkwy., planter boxes, new trees, and a landscaped half circle gateway to the Ridge Park green space along the 9800

block of S. Walden Pkwy.

Funding for this project has been approved and a contract for project design is currently being negotiated. We hope to begin a design process that will include the opportunity for public input sometime this summer and would like to begin construction in Fall, 2014. To maintain these improvements, local property owners are in the process of forming a Special Service Area (SSA). For more information, please contact Tristan Angus at (773) 238-8766 or Tristan.Angus@CityofChicago.org.



Example of semi-circular plaza entry



95th Street Streetscape – Phase II

Phase II of this Streetscape will extend the improvements currently found between Western Ave. & Leavitt St. further east to Damen Ave. Improvements include ornamental 32 foot street light poles at the corners with smaller pedestrian level 18 foot light poles in between. By varying the size of the poles, the entire area becomes better lit and the lines connecting them are buried resulting in fewer out-ages. The project will also include new sidewalks and curbs as needed, brick paver parkways, irrigated planter boxes, commu-

nity identifiers. Existing medians will receive new irrigation & electrical systems as well as improved landscaping.

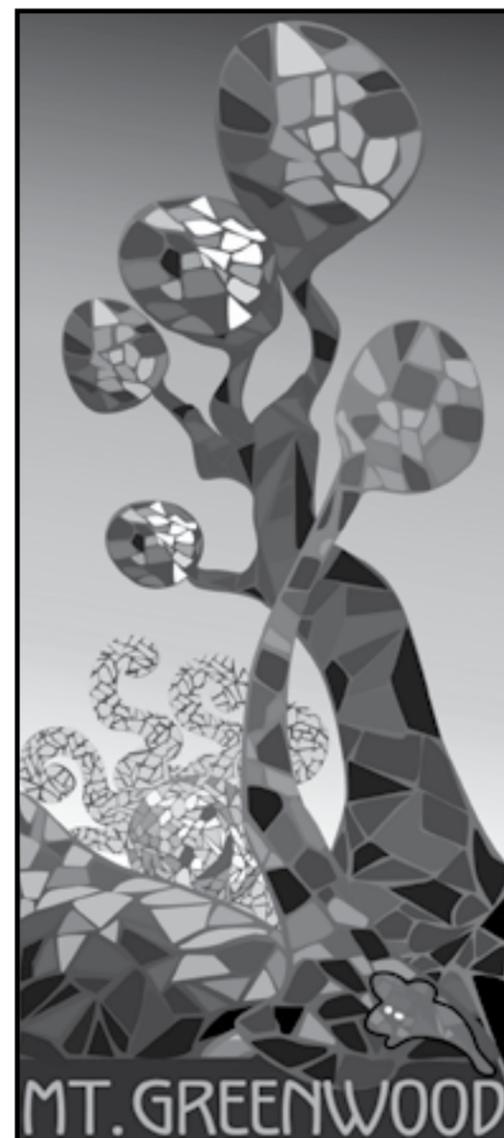
Design for Phase II of Streetscape is nearly complete. With funding now approved, this \$3 million project will go through a competitive bidding process this year, with construction to hopefully begin in the spring of 2014. Phase I of this project is nearly complete; plantings and some final irrigation work is ongoing with a target completion of June, 2013.



111th Street Streetscape – Phase I

For the past two years, Alderman O'Shea has worked with a committee of residents and property owners on an overall master plan for streetscape improvements on 111th St. between Central Park Ave. and Sacramento Ave. Recently, funding was approved for the engineering design and construction of Phase I, between Central Park Ave. and Homan Ave. The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) is currently working to select and engineering firm to complete the project design.

Once an engineer is in place, we hope to engage the community in the design process to ensure the best possible results. Typical streetscape projects take one year to design. This project hopes to carry some of the decorative mosaic elements that make Mt. Greenwood Park unique throughout the rest of the Mount Greenwood commercial district. CDOT currently projects a spring 2015 groundbreaking on this project.



Court Orders Clean Up at 2626 W. 111th St.

For the past two years, the 19th Ward has worked with the Department of Streets and Sanitation and the Department of Transportation to address a wide variety of complaints from neighbors regarding the condition of the Beverly Fence Company at 2626 W. 111th St. After many failed attempts to work with the property owner, the Law Department filed a lawsuit in Chicago Building Court. On Wednesday, May 8th, a Cook County Circuit Court Judge authorized CN Realty Advisors, acting as a limited property receiver, to make the necessary repairs to the public way at this location.

CN has contracted with an engineer to produce formal plans to rebuild the sidewalks, create a

defined parkway, and replace the curbs and driveways. This damage was caused by heavy trucks from Beverly Fence Company illegally parking on the public way. To prevent that practice in the future, the repair work will not only include new curbs, but also tree pits in the parkways.

The receiver is eager to begin this work. We are hopeful that after drawings are finalized, and all proper permits obtained, crews can be on site at this location by mid-summer. Special thanks to the many City of Chicago employees who have worked on this issue for over a year, especially Glenn Angel (Law Department), Cole Stallard (Streets & Sanitation), and Paul Kuras (Transportation-Public Way).



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Friday, May 17th 2013



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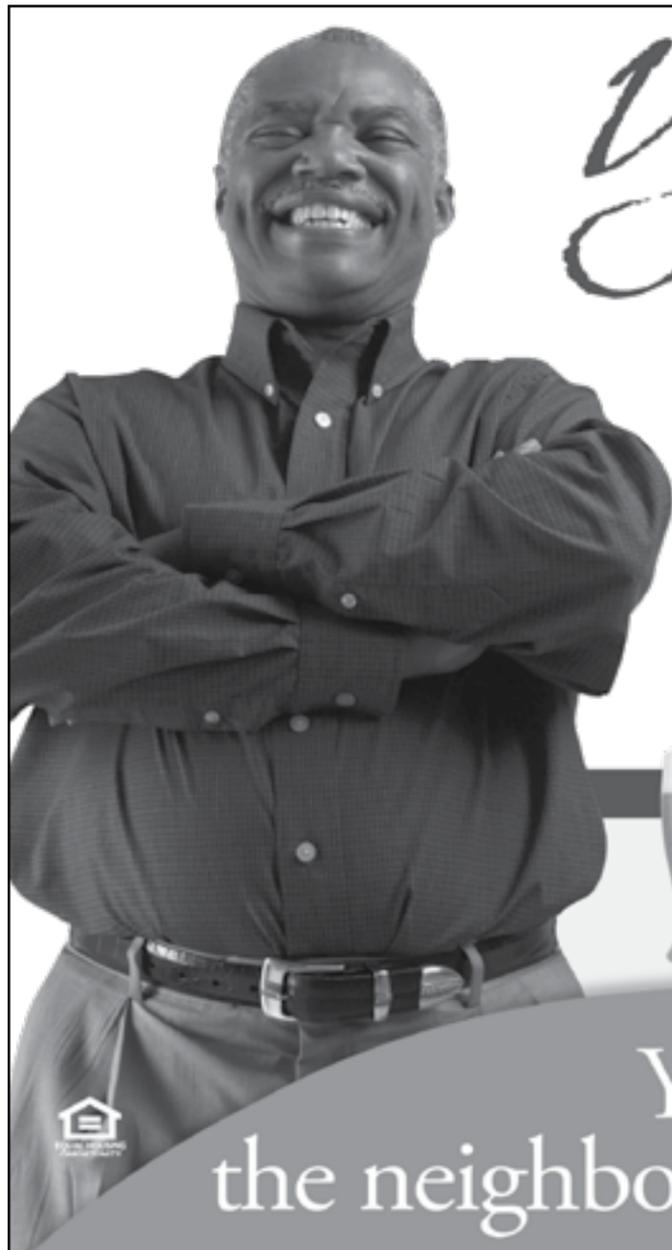
7:00pm Memorial Hall-St. Cajetan

\$25 in advance (by Monday 5.13)/\$30 at the door

Includes wine/beer samples and appetizers

Cash bar with various wines and domestic/import beer available

Please contact Mary and Mike Geraghty with questions
312-282-6868 or Mgeraghty2535@att.net



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Discover even more things to love about Smith Village. Visit SmithVillage.org or call (773) 474-7303 for a FREE Information Kit.
2320 W. 113th Place, Chicago, Illinois 60645

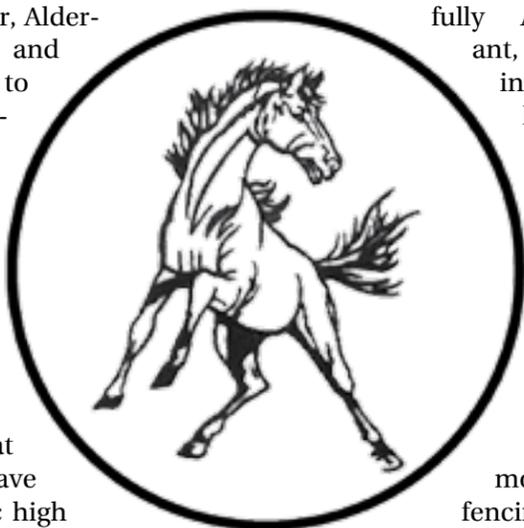
Morgan Park High School

Morgan Park High School Community Initiative

On Monday, June 10th, Alderman Matt O'Shea will host an open meeting introducing Dr. Carolyn Epps, the new Principal at Morgan Park High School, to residents. The meeting will take place at 7:00 pm in the school auditorium. Together, Alderman O'Shea and Dr. Epps hope to form a community initiative to strengthen the relationship between the school and neighborhood.

Too many parents feel that they do not have a viable public high school option for their children. The new school leadership is eager to explore possible solutions to this problem with local families. All students in our community should have access to safe, high quality public schools.

Currently, the final phase of



a \$20 million dollar renovation project is underway at the Morgan Park Campus. Improvements include a new roof, exterior doors, tuck-pointing, and window replacement. The auditorium has been upgraded and is now fully ADA compliant, and the existing mechanical heating system has been replaced. New dehumidifiers and high efficiency hot water heaters have been installed.

Earlier this month damaged fencing and several dead trees and weed shrubs were removed from the south parking lot. A new fence is scheduled to be installed this year. Hopefully you can join us on June 10th to view all the new improvements at Morgan Park High School and hear about future plans.

Anita Alvarez visits Morgan Park High School for Career Day – 5/30

On Thursday, May 30th, Alderman Matt O'Shea will host a career day at Morgan Park High School. Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez will kick off the day by offering opening remarks to the student body. Afterwards, students will return to their classrooms to hear individual presentations from a variety of different professionals working throughout the Chicago-land area.

Our goal is to expose the stu-

dents to a wide variety of different careers as they consider their options after high school. Speakers will address an individual classroom at 11:00 am for 45 minutes to share a narrative about their profession and background, and participate in some question/answer with the students. Volunteer speakers are still needed; if you are interested please contact Alderman Matt O'Shea at (773) 238-8766 or mattoshea@the19thward.com.



**Beacon
Therapeutic**
Diagnostic and Treatment Center

"Please help our garden grow"



Beacon Therapeutic is creating an outdoor learning space for children and families of our Early Head Start (EHS) program. Inspired by Reggio Emilia principles

Donations Needed: Potting Soil; Welcome Stones; Charcoal; Paint Brushes; Seeds for Growing Plants; Flowers; Herbs; Vegetables; Flower Pots; Actual Blooming Flowers; Wind Chimes; Clay; Outdoor Cushions/Pillows; Weather Proof and Scratch Resistant Plastic Mirrors; Gardening Tools; Netting Canopies.

Drop off at 1912 W. 103rd Street BY May 14, 2013

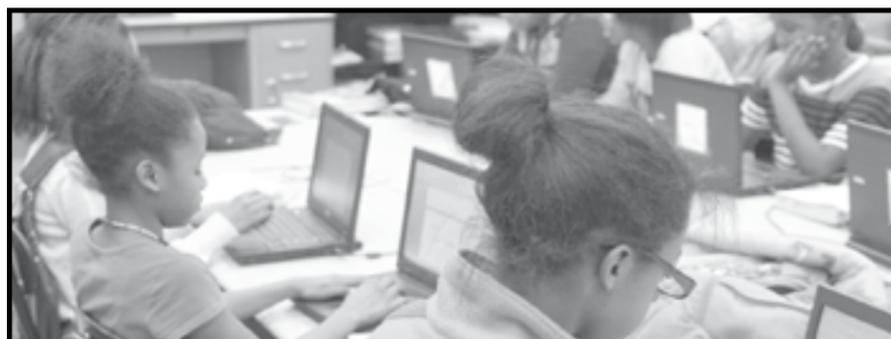
Contact Peggy Rourke at (773) 298.6441 for more information

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7/25/13

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Supper
12/6/13

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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





Parks & Recreation

Clean & Green a Huge Success

On Saturday, April 20, 2013 Alderman Matt O'Shea and the Department of Streets and Sanitation sponsored the annual "Clean & Green" in conjunction with Earth Day at various locations throughout the Beverly Hills, Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood communities. This year, Beverly Improvement Association cleaned areas near our local Metra stations, the Beverly Ridge Homeowners' Association replanted the gardens at the Ridge Park Fieldhouse in anticipation of the Beverly Breast Cancer Walk, Chicago Firefighters' Union Local 2 cleaned King-Lockhart Memorial Park, Alderman Matt O'Shea and students from Morgan Park High School cleaned the Edna White Memorial Garden, and the Mt. Greenwood Park Advisory Council and the Saint Xavier University Football Team worked at both Mt. Greenwood and McKiernan Parks. Thanks to all who volunteered their time to beautify our community this year!



Volunteers from the Beverly Ridge Homeowners Association work at Ridge Park



The Mt. Greenwood Park Advisory Council & Saint Xavier Football Team pitch in at McKiernan & Mt. Greenwood Parks



Alderman Matt O'Shea, Streets & Sanitation Commissioner Charles Williams and students from Morgan Park High School get the Edna White Garden ready for Spring

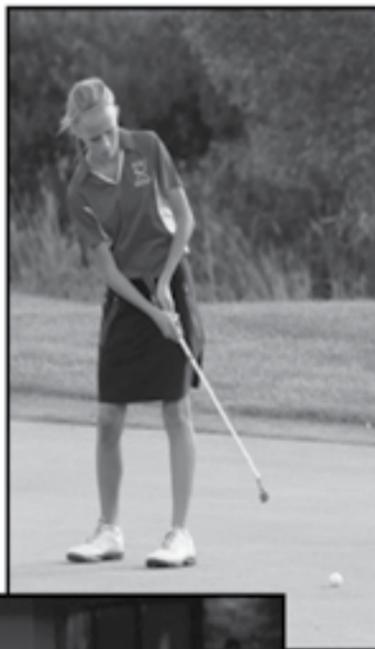
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Parks & Recreation

TAP 22 Coed Softball back for year 10!

This year, TAP 22 will partner with the 19th Ward Youth Foundation to host the 10th year of Coed Softball at Kennedy and Munroe Parks. The sun is out and many of us are looking forward to the end of finals and a great summer of White Sox games, days at the beach, backyard barbecues, and Coed Softball at Kennedy and Munroe Parks. Summer Softball registration has already begun!

Like last year, teens will play at Kennedy Park, 11320 S. Western Ave., and 20's at Munroe Park, 2617 W. 105th St. Games will again be played on Monday and Wednesday

evenings beginning on July 8th. Registration for teens is \$15 per plays and includes a T-Shirt with 8 games guaranteed. 20's pay the same entry fee, but the home team also pays the umpire on game days.

For more information or to register your team, contact tap22_2003@yahoo.com or ward19@cityofchicago.org or call Tim O'Boyle at (773) 238-8766. To stay informed, join Tap22 on facebook! Thanks to all of our players and sponsors from past years, looking forward to another great summer of softball.



MOVIES IN THE PARK

PROVIDED BY:

19th Ward YOUTH FOUNDATION

The 19th Ward Youth Foundation & Chicago Park District are pleased to announce the 2013 Summer Outdoor Movie Schedule. All outdoor movies are free and open to the community, and begin at dusk. Parents are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and bug spray for their families. A complete schedule is listed below as well as on our website at www.the19thward.com.

6/27/2013	Kellogg School	Madagascar 3
7/11/2013	Munroe Park	Ice Age: Continental Drift
7/18/2013	Crescent Park	Brave
7/25/2013	Mt. Greenwood Park	Star Wars
8/1/2013	Ridge Park	Finding Nemo
8/8/2013	McKiernan Park	Hotel Transylvania
8/15/2013	Kennedy Park	Toy Story 3



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Matt O'Shea

19th Ward Alderman

presents...

Bike Across America *without leaving the 19th Ward*



**Saturday, May 18, 2013
10:00 A.M.**

Mt. Greenwood Park 3721 W. 111th St.

For more information contact:
Maureen Chausse at (773) 238-8776 or maureen@the19thward.com.

Legislative Update

Alderman Seeks Input on Proposed Changes to Parking Meter Deal



On Wednesday, May 8th, Mayor Emanuel introduced a settlement agreement and amendment to the controversial parking meter contract. The proposal includes several different components, each with significant ramifications for the taxpayers. All provisions outlined below have been agreed to by both the Mayor's Office and Chicago Parking Meters (CPM) but still require City Council approval. Before voting on this matter at the June 5, 2013 council meeting, I would like community input.

The most significant issue in this agreement involves the method used for calculating lost revenue payments to CPM as a result of City actions (i.e. changing rush hour restrictions, period of stay, etc.) that are deemed to change the

character and potential revenues associated with a metered space. As The City and CPM disagree as how this amount should be calculated each has adapted their own formulas for calculating this loss. For the two year period that ended on March 31, 2013, CPM's model shows \$49 million in lost revenue as compared to \$8.9 million under the City's model.

The adoption of the City's calculation model moving forward is clearly beneficial to the taxpayers. This provision alone is projected to save over \$1 billion in the future. Clarifying this point is the driving force behind this proposal.

However, separate from that important cost saving measure, the agreement also allows for free parking on Sundays in the areas of the City south of Roosevelt Rd., west of Halsted St., and north of North Ave. This provision will impact 29,117 of the 35,937 metered spaces in the City including all the metered spaces in our community. CPM is projected to lose is approximately \$8.4 million as a result free Sunday parking.

To offset those losses, any space that is currently meter until 9:00 pm will be extended by one hour to 10:00 pm. A total of 3,217

meters in an area bounded by area bounded by Lake Michigan on the east, Division on the north, the Chicago River on the south and the Chicago River and the North Branch Canal on the west would be extended from 9:00pm to 12:00am. Meters that currently end earlier than 9:00pm are not impacted. The projected revenue gain to CPM from this extension is approximately \$7.4 million.

Finally, the contract takes back revenues associated with spots in City-owned parking lots from CPM. This is especially important to our community as three of the eleven lots in question are in the 19th Ward at 9448 S. Pleasant Ave., 1835 W. 95th St., and 1938 W. Monterey Ave. If this agreement goes through, revenue from these lots would go to the City and not CPM. These lots have traditionally been used by community groups for neighborhood festivals, street fairs and farmers' markets. Under the existing parking meter agreement, such uses require payment to CPM.

To offset the lost revenue from the parking lots, the City would transfer revenues from 828 other metered spaces around the City to CPM. Taking back the lots would generate \$400,000 in annual reve-

nues for the City, but the 828 spaces we give up are worth approximately \$1.3 million. While this exchange is not profitable for the City, it does allow the various community organizations to resume use of the lots for their events or activities like the 95th Street Farmers' Market that is held in the lot at 1835 W. 95th St. When we look at the revenue gain and loss for re-designating these spots together with the Free Sundays/1-hour trade, there is a small estimated benefit to the City.

I hope that this information has been presented in a clear and understandable fashion. This settlement agreement and contract amendment has been presented to the City Council as a package. At the June 5, 2013 City Council meeting I will not have the option of supporting one piece of the plan and rejecting another; rather, it is an all or nothing proposition since it was negotiated to resolve a large and complex litigation against the City. If you would like to weigh in, please e-mail mattoshea@the19thward.com.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. O'Shea

Cunningham Bill Would Crackdown on Gang Funerals

Legislation designed to punish motorists who drive recklessly in so-called "gang funerals" sponsored by State Senator Bill Cunningham (D-Chicago) was unanimously approved by the Illinois Senate last month. Senate Bill 2154 would allow police to impound the cars of drivers who swerve in and out of traffic or allow passengers to hang out of the windows and doors of their vehicle during funeral processions.

"Reckless driving during funeral processions of known gang members is a growing problem on the South Side of Chicago and in the Southwest Suburbs," Cunningham said. "Too many times the streets of my district have been endangered by funeral processions in which gang members recklessly swerve their cars into oncom-



ing traffic while passengers hang out of car windows and flash gang signs at pedestrians. This behavior

not only creates a threat to public safety, it is highly disrespectful to the families of the deceased."

Senate Bill 2154 authorizes municipalities to impound vehicles used in reckless driving offenses if the car is part of a funeral or if the vehicle interferes with a funeral procession. Cunningham presented the bill to the Senate Transportation Committee and was joined by Alderman O'Shea, who testified in favor of the bill. O'Shea told the committee that the legislation was developed after a series of meetings with residents and police officers in his community, which has been plagued by gang funerals in recent years.

Hurley Bill Closes Dangerous Loophole in Sex Offender Regulations

State Representative Fran Hurley's legislation to close a dangerous loophole in the state's child sex offender laws was approved unanimously by the Illinois House last month. House Bill 3023 will help law enforcement agencies protect the public from convicted child sex offenders who use certain private playgrounds as a means of stalking children. Current law prevents convicted child sex offenders from using public parks and public playgrounds, but there is no provision for play areas that are accessible to the public but located on private property. Hurley's measure closes this loophole and is being sponsored in the Senate by Senator Bill Cunningham.

Continuing her efforts to rein in spending and get Illinois back on the right track, legislation co-sponsored by Hurley to cut pay for state lawmakers and other state elected officials passed the House. House Bill 1441 requires state legislators to work for less pay and eliminates cost of living increases for legislators, State's Attorneys, statewide elected officials and certain appointed officers. The bill also freezes reimbursement rates at current levels.

To give property tax relief to homeowners, Hurley co-sponsored SB 1894, which was signed

into law by the governor, to increase the amounts of the Senior Citizen and General Homestead Exemptions for Cook County residents. This bill will reduce a property's taxable value and lowers the overall amount on a homeowners' property tax bills, providing vital tax relief as home values continue to struggle.

Hurley's full-time constituent services office is located in the 19th Ward Service Office, located at 10400 S. Western Ave., and staff is available Monday through Friday from 9:00 am. - 5:00 pm. Residents may also contact Hurley at (773) 445-8128 or RepFranHurley@gmail.com.



Legislative Update

Senator Cunningham fights for the rights of disabled students

State Senator Bill Cunningham has advanced two major pieces of legislation aimed at protecting the rights of disabled students in Illinois schools. One measure will allow students with disabilities to receive physical education credit for participating in outside athletic programs, while the other proposal will set a strict timeframe for school districts to implement a student's Individualized Education Program.

"Students with disabilities and their parents face and overcome tremendous challenges every day in our public schools," Cunningham said. "I've made it my mission in the General Assembly to ensure special student's needs are met and that they are not denied the opportunities routinely provided to their peers."

This Spring, Cunningham sponsored and passed Senate Bill 2157 to provide high school students with disabilities the same right to physical education waivers that are offered to other students. Under current state law, high school students who participate in interscholastic athletic programs can receive waivers that allow them to skip P.E. classes. But many

student-athletes in Illinois do not qualify for waivers simply because their schools do not offer sports programs that accommodate students with disabilities. Senate Bill 2157 would correct this problem by giving local school boards the ability to grant P.E. waivers to disabled students who are engaged in athletic activities outside of school.

"If a student with a disability participates in an athletic program, he should have the opportunity to receive a P.E. waiver just like his peers who play basketball and football," Cunningham said.

A number of sports programs could qualify for the waiver, including wheelchair basketball, sled hockey, the Special Olympics and many others.

Cunningham also served as the Senate sponsor of House Bill 1446, legislation designed to protect the rights of students who receive IEP's. Current federal law and the Illinois administrative code are contradictory when comes to setting guidelines for how long school districts have to set and implement a student IEP. HB 1446 changes Illinois law and states implementation of an IEP shall occur no later

than ten school attendance days after a parent receives notice of his or her child's new educational placement.

"Too often, parents of students with IEP's are forced to cut through

miles of red tap while advocating for their children," Cunningham said. "State law needs to specifically layout guidelines for school districts to make sure IEP services are not delayed."



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Senior Citizen News

Smith Village provides special continuity for South Siders

Early last summer, Betty O'Connor, 90, was considering a move from her condo in Palos Park to Smith Village, a continuing care retirement community located at 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood. She had just completed a tour with Kevin McGee, who at that time was executive director of Smith Village. As the two exited the lobby, O'Connor heard a voice call out, "Betty?"

O'Connor is the aunt of McGee's mother. In August 2012, he was named president and CEO of Smith Senior Living which sponsors Smith Village and Smith Crossing in Orland Park.

The voice belonged to none other than Harry Rogers, a friend from O'Connor's early years. In the 1930s and early 1940s, Rogers had lived just a few doors from 8004 S. Morgan Street, the barn-style brick home where O'Connor grew up in Chicago's South Side Auburn neighborhood.

More than 70 years had passed since the two had last seen each other. Rogers had followed in his father's footsteps with a career at the Board of Trade. O'Connor had earned a teaching degree from Chicago State Teachers College, and taught kindergarten for 33 years at Adlai E. Stevenson School in Chicago.

Both had married, raised children and witnessed the arrival of grandchildren. Through it all, they carried cherished memories of relaxed summer days spent sitting on O'Connor's front porch swing.

After O'Connor moved to Smith Village last fall, she, Rogers and Jim Hickey, another Smith Village resident who grew up a block away on Morgan Street, gathered to reminisce over coffee and cookies with Amanda Mauceri, associate executive director of Smith Village. Their invitation had referred to the old Scout song, "Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other's gold..."

"It's not unusual at all for people who move to Smith Village to discover friends from grade school or high school, or even friends they got to know through activities at their children's schools," says Mauceri. "Our community is welcoming no matter where you're from, but for many of Chicago's South Siders, Smith Village provides a special continuity."

Learning that Rogers and others from her old neighborhood lived at Smith Village made deciding to move there a little bit easier, according to O'Connor. "I just can't believe we're crossing paths after all these years," she says, showing Rogers and Hickey a 1930s photo of her house on Morgan Street. "This porch was where all the kids gathered," she explained.

"We played together during our grade school years," says Rogers, who attended St. Leo's Catholic grammar school. Hickey, a retired optometrist, also attended St. Leo's with O'Connor's younger brother John.

"Harry's mother was one of the most beautiful women I've ever



During the 19th Ward's annual Spring Fling at 115 Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park, 19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea (left) welcomes Joyce Gallagher, commissioner of the City of Chicago's Senior Services Area Agency on Aging, Amanda Mauceri, associate executive director of Smith Village, and Kevin McGee, chief executive officer of Smith Senior Living, the not-for-profit that sponsors Smith Village in Chicago's South Side Beverly neighborhood, and Smith Crossing, another continuing care retirement community located in Orland Park. More than 225 seniors from the 19th Ward paid a \$5 admission to enjoy the March 19 event, which included: live singing, musical performances and comedy skits by the Village Players, the resident acting troupe of Smith Village, as well as a fried chicken lunch, dancing, and games of chance. More than 25 local businesses contributed gift cards and prizes for the event.

seen," says O'Connor, who attended St. Sabina grammar school. "Harry lived in the most beautiful house on the block. It had a driveway and a large yard. He was popular. He had a car."

O'Connor, Rogers and Hickey, and another Smith Village resident, Jim Durkin, were all neighbors living within a two-block stretch of Morgan Street. "It's been easier to recognize the guys because their last names didn't change," O'Connor says. "There may be other people here, women, that I still don't know about."

O'Connor's husband Tom passed away 10 years ago. When they married in the early 1940s, she moved away from her parent's house on Morgan Street, and soon lost touch with many of her early childhood friends. "Our young men were drafted for WWII so that changed things for everyone as well," she says.

Since moving to Smith Village last fall, O'Connor has discovered others with whom she shares common experiences. "One day while having lunch I learned that another Smith Village resident, Marguerite McGuire, and I had both attended St. Thomas Aquinas High School and edited the school newsletter," O'Connor says.

O'Connor often refers to her childhood days as "simpler times,"

but she observes that her lifestyle at Smith Village also is carefree.

"I just love it here," O'Connor says. "I think what I like most is not having to worry about so many things, such as taking care of a house. With a house, it's always something. Here I can just relax. And of course, there are plenty of wonderful activities. Right now I'm finding my way, deciding what things I enjoy participating in. But more than anything, it's nice to be able to relax among old friends."

About Smith Village

Smith Village, 2320 W. 113th Place, in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, offers resort-style retirement living with apartments and appealing common areas for residents at all levels of care.

Sponsored by Smith Senior Living, a not-for-profit organization serving older adults since 1924, Smith Village provides spacious residences and engaging programs for independent living, as well as assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing care. Smith Village also provides short-term rehabilitation services for residents and others requiring assistance after surgery or a medical incident.

For more information about Smith Village, call 773-474-7300 or visit SmithVillage.org.



Smith Village residents Harry Rogers, seated, with Betty O'Connor, and Jim Hickey, standing, are reunited as childhood friends for an afternoon.

Senior Citizen News

BINGO

Senior Bingo Returns to Kennedy Park

Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, and Representative Fran Hurley will host free bingo for senior citizens on Monday afternoons in June. Bingo will begin at 5:00pm at Kennedy Park, 11320 S. Western Avenue; light refreshments will be provided. There is no cost to play and cash prizes are given to winners. All senior citizens in the 19th Ward are welcome to join us for a fun filled hour of Bingo.



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SAVE THE DATE

19th Ward Senior Citizen Sock Hop

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115 Bourbon St., 3359 W. 115th St.

Admission: \$5 – Reservations Required

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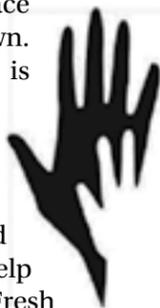
Is there a problem home on your block? The City of Chicago has strict regulations regarding homes in disrepair, as well as vacant or abandoned homes. These properties can become eyesores and drive down the value of surrounding



properties. If you have a problem property on your block, please report it to Alderman O'Shea's office at (773) 238-8776 or ward19@cityofchicago.org so appropriate action can be taken.

Beacon Seeks Donations for Fresh Starts Program

The Beacon Therapeutic Center needs our help! Their Fresh Starts program provides an assistance kit with many household necessities to women and children as they transition out of shelter and into a place of their own. Beacon is currently seeking donated new or gently used items to help fill the Fresh Start kits.



Beacon Therapeutic
Diagnostic and Treatment Center

puzzles, blocks and bedtime books. For mothers, the program needs broom/dust pans, mops, buckets, shower curtain/hooks, basic tool sets, sheet sets, blankets and towels. Monetary contributions are also appreciated.

With your support, Beacon Therapeutic Center can continue to create new endings to disadvantaged beginnings.

Requested items include car seats, baby blankets, crib mobile, diapers, formula, baby bathtubs, wipes, shampoo, bath soap, A&D ointment, lotion, pacifiers, basic

Donations can be delivered to Beacon's administrative office at 1912 W. 103rd St. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Rourke at 773-298-6441 or prourke@beacon-therapeutic.org.

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Vorberg Violates Terms of Release; Returned to Jail

Daniel Vorberg, the 30 year old Oak Lawn man charged with two counts of felony Indecent Exposure, was returned to jail by the Cook County Sheriff's Police after violating the terms of his release on electronic monitoring. Vorberg was arrested on May 1, 2013 after parents identified him as the man seen committing acts of public indecency near a Mt. Greenwood elementary school. Despite a lengthy arrest record that includes attempted child abduction, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Panarese released this dangerous predator on electronic monitoring with a relatively low \$50,000 bond.

Since violating the terms of his release, Vorberg remains in the Cook County Jail with an additional \$200,000 bond. Special thanks to the neighbors who acted quickly to record Vorberg's license plate number, the Chicago Police Department who initially apprehended him, and the Cook County Sheriff's Police who later found him in violation of the terms of the electronic monitoring release. By working together, we can have an impact on community safety.

19th Ward Alderman Matt

O'Shea is organizing a group of concerned parents and residents to attend Vorberg's arraignment and send a strong message to the trial judge. If you are interested in joining this effort, please e-mail your contact information to matoshea@the19thward.com to receive more information when it becomes available.



Alderman seeks community input on plan for 115th & Western

Dear Neighbors:

Last June, the Southwest Morgan Park Civic Association and I hosted an open meeting to discuss developing the City owned land at 11443-11547 S. Western Ave. into a soccer/lacrosse field operated by the Chicago Park District. Residents that attended the meeting expressed various opinions regarding the possible closure of 115th Street at Western Avenue required to join the two parcels. At that time, the Southwest Morgan Park Civic Association agreed to continue discussions on traffic issues related to 115th St. while I maintained an ongoing dialogue with the Chicago Park District about the potential project.

Since then, I have continued to work with the Park District exploring the various site, grade, and environmental issues at this location. Moreover, I have also brought the site to several private developers including representatives from Whole Foods, Mariano's, Trader Joe's, the Fresh Market, Culver's and more. As has been the case in the past, not one developer that I contacted ex-

pressed an interest in this property.

Given that, the Chicago Park District seems to be our most realistic option for development at this site. After nearly a year of research and discussion, they have presented preliminary plans for this location. Before moving forward, I would like to gather feedback and input from the entire community.

On Saturday, June 8, 2013, I will host an open house at the Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, 11320 S. Western Ave. from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm for residents to come, view the plans and renderings, and complete a survey to provide feedback. Afterwards, the information, along with the community survey, will be posted at www.the19thward.com. This will allow residents to offer input from June 8th - June 22nd; the information gathered will help us formulate a plan to move forward.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. O'Shea
Alderman, 19th Ward

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Christal West, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
Obstetrics and Gynecology

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Members of the Medical Staff at MetroSouth Medical Center



CBRE Fined \$10,000 for Marketing 116th & Oakley Green Space

On Friday, April 12, 2013, the City of Chicago settled a lawsuit for deceptive advertising against the real estate firm marketing the green space at 11625 - 11735 S. Oakley Ave. Through this settlement, CBRE Real Estate has agreed to pay the City \$10,040, the maximum allowable fine plus court costs, for this offense. This lawsuit, filed on my behalf by the City's Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection,



was the strongest measure available to us to preserve this green space for our community.

Last summer, the Chicago Board of Education announced plans to sell off vacant or unused properties to help reduce budget deficits. Shortly after that announcement was made, Alderman Matt O'Shea passed an ordinance changing the zoning at this location from RS-1 (a designation that allows for the construction of single family homes) to POS-1 (a designation that requires the property to remain green space). As such,

this property must be preserved as green space by whomever owns it.

Even after being made aware of the zoning change, the Board of Education's real estate broker, CBRE, continued to market the property to the public with the original zoning designation on their website and via e-mail. Moreover, the advertisements included a graphic overlay showing potential buyers how the land could be divided into 31 individual lots for single family homes to be constructed. In response to this knowingly deceptive advertising, the City of Chicago filed a lawsuit through its administrative hearing process.

Thanks to the efforts of the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, the highest possible fine was imposed on CBRE. This outcome sends a strong message that our community will fight to keep our green space. If you have any questions related to this matter, please contact the 19th Ward Office at (773) 238-8766.

Thanks to the efforts of the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, the highest possible fine was imposed on CBRE. This outcome sends a strong message that our community will fight to keep our green space. If you have any questions related to this matter, please contact the 19th Ward Office at (773) 238-8766.



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City to Inoculate 35,000 Ash Trees in 2013

This April, the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation began implementing an aggressive forestry plan including \$2.6 million resources to support the inoculation of 35,000 ash trees against the emerald ash borer insect, as well as tree trimming for 20,000 additional parkway trees. For the first time ever, the City will have a dedicated workforce who will be tasked with inoculating ash trees. In 2013, the City will invest approximately \$2 million in an emerald ash borer program, compared to \$110,000 in 2012.

The City has hired and trained 26 general laborers to implement the first year of the multi-year plan to combat the insect which threatens approximately 85,000 of the City's parkway trees. In 2013, 35,000 ash trees will be treated, compared to the 18,000 total parkway trees that have been inoculated in Chicago since the treatment became available in 2009.

In addition, the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation has hired seven additional forestry crews to provide regular tree maintenance, including trimmings and removals, for the nearly half million trees that line Chicago's parkways. These crews will also support our emergency forestry response during storm seasons. With these crews, the department anticipates trimming up to 20,000 trees in

2013.

"We continue to be more efficient with our resources, and the additional resources and workers will have a positive impact on the number trees we can treat for infestations and the number of trims we provide across the city," said Charles L. Williams, Commissioner of the Department of Streets and Sanitation.

Emerald ash borer inoculation crews will first target areas of known infestation to slow the progression of the insect and manage tree mortality. Forestry crews are expected to begin inoculating ash trees in early May and continue through September, when treatment is believed to be most effective. The ash trees will be inoculated with Emamectin Benzoate which has been proven to kill 99 percent of emerald ash borer insects within a tree. Emamectin Benzoate protects the tree for up to three years. The average cost to inoculate a tree is \$46, compared with \$1,000 to remove and replace a tree.

The emerald ash borer is an exotic beetle native to Asia that was discovered in southeastern Michigan in 2002. The beetle has killed more than 30 million ash trees in Michigan alone, with millions more dying in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and other states.



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Beverly Arts Center Schedule

Fore Art Golf Outing

The Fore Art Golf Outing supporting the Beverly Arts Center will be held Mon., June 17, Ridge Country Club. The annual golf outing includes hole contests, a putting contest, and raffle. Golfers and guests enjoy an evening of cocktails, dinner and entertainment. Proceeds from this event support the BAC's quality arts programming. For information call 773-445-3838.

Main Stage

Samuel del Real y Su Orquesta perform Sat., May 11, 8 p.m., Acclaimed Colombian pianist Samuel del Real and his orchestra perform a festive concert of Salsa, Cumbia, Merengue and Latin jazz. Tickets: \$18 (\$16/BAC members).

The Nevery Brothers perform A Rock n' Roll Evolution: From Elvis to The Beatles, Fri., May 17, 8 p.m. From the hits of the 1950s through the British invasion, the Nevery Brothers play classic rock dressed in period-perfect suits from each era. Tickets: \$22 (\$20/BAC members).



Back to the Delta: A Blues Showcase, Fri., May 24, 8 p.m. "Diamond" Jim Greene, the Jimmy Burns Band and the Smiley Tillmon Band perform great blues music from the Delta to Chicago. Tickets: \$19 (\$17 BAC members)



"They're Playing Our Song," Fri., June 7 and Sat., June 8, 7:30 p.m., and Sun., June 9, 3:30 p.m. and Fri., June 14 and Sat., June 15, 7:30 p.m. and Sun., June 16, 3:30 p.m. Based on the real life love story of Marvin Hamlisch and Carole Bayer Sager, Neil Simon's romantic musical will leave a smile on your face and a song in your heart. Tickets: \$23 (\$22/BAC members).

Chicago Kids Company presents **"Goldilocks and the Three Bears"** through Aug. 16 at 10:30 a.m. on selected weekdays and 1 p.m. on Sat., May 18 and July 20. This hilarious musical is just right for young children.



Literary Events

Keith Koeneman will discuss his book "First Son", the biography of Richard M. Daley, Thurs., June 20, 7:30 p.m. Andy Shaw, award-winning Chicago journalist and president and CEO of the Better Government Association, is among the panelists. Copies of Koeneman's book will be available for purchase and signing. Tickets: \$10.



FIRST SON
The Biography of
Richard M. Daley
KEITH KOENEMAN

BAC Writers critique group, Mondays, May 13, June 10, July 8 and Aug. 12, 7 p.m. Serious adult creative writers are welcome to attend and bring work to share for peer critique. \$5 (\$3/BAC members). grace@beverlyartcenter.org.

Summer Camps and Classes

Summer camps and classes for all ages begin in June at the BAC. From the Summer Arts Experience that offers theater, dance, visual art, music, ceramics and computer arts to intensives for serious teen artists, there is something for everyone this summer at the BAC. Enroll by May 24 to take advantage of early registration discounts. Registration available online 24/7.

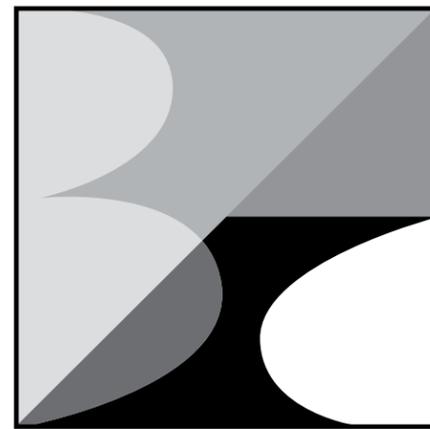
Gallery

Andros: Paintings by Timothy R. Collins and **Welcome to the University of Whimsical Happenstance**, works by Jennifer Newstat, through Sun., May 26.

In a Perfect World, paintings that mix the natural and spiritual worlds by artists Mary Porterfield, Sandy Dawson, Elaine Miller and Dan Addington, May 11 through June 9, artists' reception Fri., May 17, 7 to 9 p.m. Free.



Application deadline for the **6th annual Digital Photo Contest and Exhibit** is May 14. The competition is sponsored by the BAC Young Adult Board and open to artists age 21 to 35. The exhibit of accepted works will be shown June 1 to 30, artists' reception Sat., June 8, 7 to 9 p.m. Applications: www.beverlyartcenter.org under Gallery.



Beverly Arts Center
2407 W. 111th St.
773-445-3838
www.beverlyartcenter.org

June 30 is the deadline to submit art for the **BAC Members Only Art Show**. Current BAC members age 15 and up can submit up to 5 works to be considered for inclusion. The exhibit will be at the BAC July 6 through Aug. 4. Email jpegs of submissions to Carla@beverlyartcenter.org.

BACinema

The BAC screens first run, foreign and independent films on Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 (\$5.50/BAC members) and the popcorn is only \$1!

"Chasing Ice" (2012) PG-13. RT 1:25. Wed., May 15, 7:30 p.m. National Geographic photographer James Balog uses time-lapse cameras to capture a multi-year record of the world's glaciers as they disappear, depicting the vulnerability of our carbon-powered planet.

"No" (2012) R. Adult language, Violence. RT 1:58. Wed., May 22. In 1988, Chilean military dictator Augusto Pinochet was forced to hold a vote on whether his rule would be extended for another eight years. Opposition leaders enlist the help of a brash advertising executive to spearhead their campaign to win the election and set Chile free.

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The Beverly Theatre Guild

**FABULOUS @ FIFTY
1963 - 2013**

On Friday May 17th, the Beverly Theater Guild will host a gala celebrating 50 years of excellence in the arts. The celebration will begin with cocktails and dinner in Blake Hall, followed by a musical revue, desert, gift bags and much more! For more information, please visit www.beverlytheatreguild.org.

If you cannot attend the gala, there will be two more performance that weekend. Saturday, May 18th at 8:00 pm and Sunday, May 19th, at 2:00 pm, for the Fab-

ulous @ Fifty, Revue in Song and Dance! Fabulous @ Fifty features a cast of actors a bit over 50, consisting of talented performers drawn from the Beverly area, Chicago and suburbs. Song and dances are drawn from the musicals BTG has presented over the past 50 years along with a number from BTG's upcoming premier of Monty Python's Spamalot.

Congratulations and Happy 50th Anniversary BTG...and here's to your next 50 years!



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