

# Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast - 2/23

19th Ward Alderman Matthew O'Shea will host his sixth annual pancake breakfast benefiting the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's "Get Behind the Vest" initiative, on Sunday, February 23rd, 2020, at St. John Fisher School, 10200 S. Washtenaw Ave., from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. The 2019 event was the largest to date with over 2000 people in attendance, and raising nearly \$34,000 in conjunction with school fundraisers and local business support.

Admission 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, which actively raises funds to replace bullet proof vests for Chicago Police officers.

Bullet proof vests need to be replaced every five years, at a cost to police officers of about \$650. Over the past six years, the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation has

replaced over 9,000 outdated bullet proof vests. Currently, there are 4200 vests that are eligible to be replaced.

Ald. O'Shea began hosting the pancake breakfast in 2015, and together with school fundraisers throughout the Beverly, Mount Greenwood and Morgan Park community, has raised over \$150,000 for the Get Behind the Vest initiative.

In addition to the pancake breakfast, Ald. O'Shea will once again be working with local schools to organize "dress down days" and other student-based fundraisers to raise additional funds for bullet proof vests.

"The men and women in the Chicago Police Department leave their families and loved ones every day to protect our community, putting themselves in dangerous situations on a daily basis," said Ald. O'Shea. "Now more than ever,

we need to do all that we can to help protect those who protect us. My community is home to thousands of Chicago Police officers, who understand how important life-saving equipment is on the job. It is my hope that through my pancake breakfast, we can continue to help replace bullet proof vests for our officers and help to ensure their safety on the streets. I'd like to once again thank Original Pancake House-Beverly, Kean Gas Station, our

local schools and businesses who support our efforts, as well as the thousands of residents and police supporters who attend this breakfast each year."

Ald. O'Shea sits on the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation Advisory Board and the Chicago Police Chaplains Ministry Board of Directors. He represents the communities of Beverly Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood, where

thousands of first responders reside.

The pancake breakfast is generously supported and co-hosted by the Original Pancake House - Beverly. All pancake batter, condiments and cooking supplies will be donated by the Harrigan Family, who have operated the Original Pancake House for more than fifty years. Additional sponsors include the 19th Ward Youth Foundation, AthleteX, Beverly Bank, Joey's Red Hots, Kean Gas Station, Mariano's, Officer Mullens Apple Sauce. Saint John Fisher Parish, Senator Bill Cunningham, and State Representative Fran Hurley.

For more information on Alderman Matt O'Shea's Pancake Breakfast, benefiting the Get Behind the Vest initiative, 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)



## Participate in 19th Ward Cancer Study

19th Ward residents age 35 or older are invited to participate in the Chicago Multiethnic Prevention and Surveillance Study (COMPASS) conducted by the University of Chicago; participants who successfully complete the full survey will receive \$50 in Visa gift cards. Staff from the University of Chicago will be at the 19th Ward Office at 10400 S. Western Ave. on Saturday, February 29th, and Saturday, March 21st from 9:00am to 2:00pm to enroll participants and collect study data. Participants will be asked to complete three online questionnaires and provide blood, urine and saliva samples. The entire process takes approximately one hour and a government issued photo ID is required. Participants can also receive optional home radon monitoring.

For the past several years, the 19th Ward has partnered with the

University of Chicago on this project to learn why certain population groups have higher rates of cancer and chronic diseases than others. The study explores the connections between genetics, environment, health behaviors, and long term health outcomes.

If you are interested in participating you can walk up on either February 29th or March 21st with no appointment. However, you can also contact Andy Craver in advance at [cravera@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:cravera@bsd.uchicago.edu) or (773) 702-9644 to receive the links to the online consent and survey modules. You can save time by completing some pieces of the study online.

All 19th Ward residents age 35 and older are strongly encouraged to participate. Your involvement will improve the quality of this study!

## Nicky's Grill Expands to 105th & Western

Nicky's Grill & Yogurt, a longtime neighborhood favorite that has operated at 10255 S. Western Ave. for the past 20 years recently announced plans to relocate to 10500 S. Western Ave. in the space formerly occupied by Taqueria Valparaiso. The new space will be completely renovated. The existing 1,000 square foot floor plan will double to 2,000 feet and the drive through will be removed. Once complete, the facility will include rooftop dining, a garage style overhead door, and outdoor seating for patrons.

The \$1 million community investment will include two stacked shipping containers that will allow for 18 foot ceilings and an open air dining space. Construction is expected to begin soon and an opening is anticipated for late Summer, 2020. Many thanks to Nicky's owner Paul Kostopanagiotou for this major investment in our commercial strip. Nicky's Grill & Yogurt will remain open at their current location until the new space is ready. For more information about Nicky's, please visit their website at [www.nickysgrillandyogurt.com](http://www.nickysgrillandyogurt.com).



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## Desiree Rogers Visits MPHS

On Thursday, March 12th, former White House Social Secretary Desiree Rogers will visit Morgan Park High School (MPHS) as the keynote speaker for their annual career day assembly. A group of students will interview Ms. Rogers at an assembly for all Junior and Senior class members; immediately following the interview, Rogers will take questions from the audience. Rogers appearance will kick off a full day of career day presentations in individual classrooms from professionals working in various fields throughout the Chicagoland area.



Fashion Fair, the JPC cosmetics line included creating a new in-store brand look, optimizing the retail footprint, securing new international partners and revitalizing the e-commerce platform.

As the first Social Secretary for President Obama's vision of the "People's House" into a reality relying on building national partnerships with non-for-profits, corporations, the entertainment industry, fashion designers, and the arts creating a fresh view of how the White House represented American culture.

Prior to these roles, she held senior positions at Allstate and Peoples Energy where she was the President of the \$2B gas utility. Desiree has recently launched, One Brown Girl, LLC., a corporation that invests in minority owned businesses. She continues to serve on several corporate boards. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard Business School.

Career Day at Morgan Park High School is sponsored by Alderman Matthew O'Shea and the 19th Ward Youth Foundation. The goal is to expose students to a wide variety of careers as they consider their options after high school. Volunteer speakers are still needed; if you are interested in participating please contact Tristan Angus at (773) 238-8766 or [tristan@the19thward.com](mailto:tristan@the19thward.com).

## O'Shea Testifies Before Congress on Railroad Concerns

On Wednesday, February 5th, Alderman Matt O'Shea testified before the Congressional Railroad Subcommittee about the impact of block railroad crossings in the 19th Ward. The primary public safety issue according to O'Shea, is the inability of emergency vehicles to respond to life and death situations when crossings are blocked. Blocked crossings have been a significant issue since CSX Railroad's 2012 acquisition of the Elsdon Line, which runs parallel to Sacramento Ave. throughout Evergreen Park, Chicago's 19th Ward and Blue Island.

"It is not uncommon for an intersection to be blocked for over 10 minutes" said O'Shea. "We've had blockages last for over an hour. That's an hour that ambulances and fire trucks are unable to respond to critical calls for service" he added. O'Shea also stressed that a blocked crossing on 95th Street cuts off access to Christ Hospital, the nearest trauma center.

The House Railroad Subcommittee (officially the Subcommittee

on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials), is part of the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee. The Railroad Subcommittee is one of six subcommittees of the T&I Committee and has jurisdiction over all federal policy and regulation with respect to railroads, pipelines and the movement of hazardous materials. The hearing was presided over by sub-committee Chairman Dan Lipinski. "I am committed to exploring innovative solutions that will improve safety and end the gridlock caused by idling or broken-down trains in the Chicago area and around the country," said Congressman Lipinski.

The hearing sought to raise awareness of some of the grade crossing issues happening not only in Chicago but throughout the country. "Local government is hamstrung on this issue. We do not have the authority to regulate railroads. We need federal intervention and regulation to address very real safety concerns" said O'Shea.



Left to right (front row) Ethel Juralbal, Joanna Ruzich; (back row) Beth Putman, Joy Hampton, Bernadette Okrasinski

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## Utility Bill Clinic and Cable/Robocall Presentation

Alderman Matt O'Shea and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) will host a utility bill clinic and a cable/robocall presentation on Tuesday, March 24th, 1:00 - 3:00pm and Thursday, March 26th, 6:00 - 8:00pm at the 19th Ward Office (10400 S. Western Ave.).

On Tuesday, March 24th, there will be a cable/robocall presentation. A CUB representative will discuss the different choices in the TV market, ways to cut your cable costs, is it time to get rid of your cable, alternatives to satellite or cable, and streaming services available to consumers. In addition, CUB will discuss the different types of robocalls, how to avoid common robocall scams, call-blocking services and what they mean for your pocket, and new proposed federal



legislation.

On Thursday, March 26th, residents are invited to bring copies of utility bills (gas, phone and electric) for review with the Citizens Utility Board to make sure you aren't overpaying. Join us and learn how to spot unnecessary charges on electric, natural gas or phone bills. Also, find out which energy efficiency programs or rebates might help you.

There is no cost for these events. Space is limited! To reserve your spot today, please contact Anairis Boror at [aboror@citizensutilityboard.org](mailto:aboror@citizensutilityboard.org) with the subject line "19th Ward - 3/24" or "19th Ward - 3/26" or call her at (312) 263-4282, extension 111. For money-saving advice and consumer tips, visit [www.citizensutilityboard.org](http://www.citizensutilityboard.org).

## Senior Tech Survey

Results to inform topics for two series to be offered at Smith Village, Mercy Circle

This year, the 19th Ward and the Beverly Area Planning Association are collaborating to offer two free series of *Smart Tech Seniors* classes hosted by Smith Village in June and by Mercy Circle in September.

"Response to these classes have been wonderful, close to 200 people attended previous classes. So, we know that people want to learn how to use different the features of their smartphones without going back to where they were purchased," says Alderman Matt O'Shea.

During late February, BAPA and the 19th Ward will conduct an online survey for all 19th ward senior citizens. This online easy-to-use survey will be distributed via email to everyone who registered for *Tech Tuesday* classes at Smith Village during June 2018 and Smart

Tech Seniors classes at Mercy Circle during November 2019. The survey also will be made available through weekly eblasts by both organizations.

"The responses to this survey will help us learn which topics were most helpful and those that should be repeated. People also will be asked to suggest additional subject matter and tips to add to our classes," adds Mary Jo Viero, executive director, Beverly Area Planning Association.

Responses will be tallied and reported in the May editions of the *19th Ward Quarterly* and *The Villager* when specific dates for the June and September series will be announced. The information gathered will be used to guide the curriculum for the 2020 *Smart Tech Seniors* series.

## Census 2020 Coming Soon!

Please watch your mailboxes the week of March 12th for an invitation to participate in the 2020 United States Census

In mid-March, homes across the country will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once your invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. This Census is incredibly important; its results will impact Illinois' congressional representation, as well as federal funding to critical public agencies. Please do your part and make sure you and your family members participate in the 2020 Census.

The count is mandated by the United States Constitution. Once completed, the census provides

critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and our community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other resources based on the data collected during the census.

The results of the census will also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. Participating in the census is also required by law.

**The Census Bureau is hiring 500,000 part-time census takers! Learn More online at [census.gov](http://census.gov)**

## 19th Ward Business Breakfast

Please join Alderman Matt O'Shea on Thursday, February 27, 2020 for the 19th Ward's annual business owner's breakfast at Bar-raco's Restaurant in Mount Greenwood, 3047 W. 111th Street, at 8:00am. The presentation will begin at 8:30am. Commander Sean Joyce of the 22nd District

(CPD) will join Alderman O'Shea in providing a brief update on their work in the community and take questions. The Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation's 19th Ward Superintendent will also be present to address any service requests business owners would like to discuss.



The breakfast is hosted by the Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association, the 95th Street Beverly Hills Business Association, and the Mount Greenwood Community and Business Association. We encourage all business owners in the 19th Ward to join us and learn more about our ef-

forts to support the local economy in Beverly, Morgan Park, and Mount Greenwood. Reservations are requested and can be made to Mary Gill at (773) 881-0622 or [mgc-ba2013@gmail.com](mailto:mgc-ba2013@gmail.com). Please note, this breakfast is only open to 19th Ward business owners.

## Pancakes & Politicos

On Friday, February 21st the 19th Ward invites you to enjoy breakfast with your elected officials, 9:00am at the Original Pancake House, 10437 S. Western Ave. Please join us for a delicious pancake buffet and casual conversation with Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, Representatives Fran Hurley & Kelly Burke and Circuit Court Judge



Erin Haggerty Antonietti. The 19th Ward's local Streets and Sanitation Superintendent will also be present to address any city service requests that residents may have.

This event is free of charge but is open to 19th Ward residents only. Seating is limited and reservations are required. To reserve your place at breakfast, please email [kelly@the19thward.com](mailto:kelly@the19thward.com).

## 19TH WARD DOCUMENT SHREDDING

Please note, this event is for document shredding only. We will not have electronics recycling available.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

**9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.**

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10835 S. PULASKI RD.**

This service is provided free of charge, but is open to 19th Ward residents only. Documents are shredded on site.

Only documents that are loose can be shredded; please remove any staples or binders before you arrive.

SPONSORED BY:

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19TH WARD ALDERMAN

**Bill Cunningham**  
ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR - 18<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**Fran Hurley**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 35<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT





## 19th Ward Money Smart Kids

During the week of March 30, 2020, CIBC and 19TH Ward Youth Foundation will team-up to introduce *Money Smart Kids Thrive*, a financial literacy program for first and second graders in all 17 local public and private schools in the 19th Ward.

“Community pride and a strong commitment by our public and private schools have long been a part of our community,” says Alderman Matt O’Shea. “Knowing each school will participate in this exciting new program is another example of the continued strength of our schools’ leadership.”

“CIBC is excited to partner with the 19th Ward to help students learn smart money habits while they are young so they can make good financial decisions as adults,” said Helen Socha, Head of U.S. Retail Banking at CIBC. “Making these lessons fun and engaging both at school and at home can

lead to good, lifelong lessons.”

Thanks to CIBC’s support, each student will receive the Money Smart Kids Read 2020 book, *The Berenstain Bears: Trouble with Money*.

*Money Smart Kids Thrive* is part of a larger nationwide financial literacy program, called Money Smart Week and now in its 18th year, led by the Federal Reserve Bank. This year, the 19th Ward and CIBC join more than 100 Chicago-area organizations working together to promote financial literacy.

The *Money Smart Kids Thrive* program has been tailored so all first and second grade teachers have fresh, engaging classroom materials including lesson plans and fun activities. The curriculum, designed to teach students how to manage, save, invest and share money, emphasizes the value of doing so from a young age and as a family.



Alderman Matt O'Shea, Dr. Angela Tucker, Esmond Elementary School, and CIBC Manager Lola McCaster meet with Esmond School students about Money Smart week.

## 19th Ward Seeks Election Judges

The Chicago Board of Elections is seeking individuals to serve as election judges for the Municipal Election on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Election judges administer election procedures in polling places and ensure that voters’ rights are protected and respected on Election Day. Election judges receive pay for their services. Election judges are the officials responsible for the conduct of the election in the polling place. Responsibilities include opening the polling place and setting up the voting equipment by 5:00 am on Election Day; conducting a fair, impartial and secure election in the polling place; and tabulating the vote totals for the precinct and transmitting the results to Election central after the polls close at 7:00 pm.

“Election judges serve an important role in our democratic process, by ensuring an unbiased and uncompromised voting location,” said Alderman O’Shea. “Being an Election Judge is a great way for people to not only meet residents of their community, but also take an active role in the election process.”

Among the requirements to become a Judge of Election, individuals must:

- Be a registered voter in Cook County (U.S. citizens at least 18 years of age);
- Be able to speak, read and write English;
- Be able to perform basic math;
- Not be a committeeman, precinct captain or candidate and must agree not to serve as a judge if they become one;
- Be of good repute and character and not a registered sex offender anywhere in the United States and not have committed a crime that would require registering as a sex offender anywhere in the United States;
- Election judges who have completed training are paid \$200 for their service. For more information on being an Election Judge, please visit [www.chicagoelections.com](http://www.chicagoelections.com).

## 19<sup>th</sup> WARD EAST BEVERLY TOWN HALL MEETING

WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 25, 2020

7:00 P.M.

GRAVER PARK  
1518 W. 102ND PL.

Please join us for a discussion of community events. Representatives from various government agencies will also be present to address any concerns or questions you may have.

Sponsored by:

**Matt O'SHEA**  
19TH WARD ALDERMAN



**Bill Cunningham**  
ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR 18<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**Fran Hurley**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 35<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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11<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**19th Ward**  
YOUTH FOUNDATION

**Sunday, February 16, 2020**

Mount Greenwood Park Ice Rink  
3721 W. 111th Street  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

\$1 suggested donation

lite refreshments and  
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For more information contact Margie Olsen at (773) 238-8776.



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## Hurley Highlights Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program

To help provide local seniors property tax relief, state Rep. Fran Hurley, is encouraging homeowners over the age of 65 with an annual household income of \$55,000 or less to apply to the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program to help cover the cost of property tax payments.

"As property taxes continue to skyrocket each and every year, the sad reality is that some seniors simply cannot afford to stay in their homes," said Hurley. "I have continually worked for property tax relief, especially for senior homeowners, many of whom live on a fixed income. No senior should have to choose between staying in their home and paying for their prescriptions or groceries."

To help cover the cost of Cook County property tax payments, Hurley is encouraging senior homeowners to visit [cookcounty-treasurer.com](http://cookcounty-treasurer.com) and submit an application for the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program. The

State of Illinois issues the loans, which do not have to be repaid until the property is sold or the homeowner dies. An interest rate of 6% per year is charged by the state. To qualify for a yearly loan of up to \$5,000, the homeowner's annual income must be under \$55,000 per year and they must be 65 by June 1 of the year in which the application is made. The application deadline is March 1, 2020.

"The Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program provides a great solution for seniors to help cover the cost of their property tax payments, allowing them to stay in the home they have built their lives in," continued Hurley. "I encourage seniors who qualify to get their applications in as soon as possible, as the first tax payment installment date is coming up quickly."

For more information, reach out to Hurley's constituent service office at 773-445-8128 or RepFranHurley@gmail.com.

## Dangerous Home Demolished

The Chicago Department of Buildings recently demolished the vacant, unsafe home at 10987 S. Church Street. Community residents contacted Alderman O'Shea's office with concerns about the condition of this property. Following an inspection, the structure was found to be in violation of city building code; moreover, it was deemed to be a threat to public safety and was ultimately demolished.



Vacant, dilapidated buildings can become hot spots for criminal activity. Removing them is beneficial for the block and the community at large. Many thanks to the Building Department for their work on this problem house in the Morgan Park community.

If you would like to report a home that is in disrepair, please contact Alderman O'Shea's Office at (773) 238-8766 or email [kelly@the19thward.com](mailto:kelly@the19thward.com).

## Tax Savings for Seniors

Residents born in 1954 or earlier are eligible and can apply for a senior exemption on their property taxes this year. Forms are available for download at [www.cook-countyassessor.com](http://www.cook-countyassessor.com) or can be obtained at both 19th Ward service offices. Please pay particular attention to the documentation requirements and include all necessary information when you apply. Applications are also available for the senior freeze exemption. Seniors with an income under \$65,000 qualify for the senior freeze exemption and but must re-apply for that exemption every year.

Prior senior freeze recipients received applications in January, please mail those back as soon as possible. New homeowners who purchased their homes before January 1, 2019 will receive a homeowner's exemption form the first week in February. Thanks to legislation introduced by State Representative Fran Hurley and Senator Bill Cunningham, getting your se-

nior exemption will now be a lot easier. Senior exemptions will now be automatically renewed, no need to mail in an application. Prior recipients of the senior exemption should have received a letter about their exemption status in January. If you have any questions please call the 19th Ward Service Office at (773) 238-8766 or the Cook County Assessor at (312) 443-7550.

The City of Chicago also offers a senior exemption for sewer fees. Applications are available and can be turned in at the 19th Ward Service Office. After an application is filled out and all the necessary documentation is received, the sewer charge on your water bill is completely removed. There are no income requirements and you can apply the day you turn 65. In order to qualify the property must be your primary residence. Not sure if you are already receiving this savings? Take a look at your water bill, if the sewer charge is already \$0, you are set!

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## Mark Your Calendar for the Annual

# clean & green

### Chicago's Citywide

## Saturday, April 25, 2020

On Saturday, April 25, you and your neighbors can make an immediate difference in your community by volunteering for Chicago's citywide Clean & Green Day of Service.

Clean and Green is a great opportunity for residents, school groups and community organizations to team up and beautify areas in their neighborhood. The City will provide the brooms, rakes, shovels and bags needed for clean-up projects.

**Deadline for registration is Monday, April 20**

**For more information, or to register, call 311.**  
**You can also visit: [www.chicago.gov/dss](http://www.chicago.gov/dss).**

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# Chicago Public Schools 2020 Local School Council (LSC) Elections

The 2020 Local School Council elections will be held on Wednesday, April 22nd, for elementary schools and Thursday, April 23rd for high schools. Local School Councils (LSC) provide an opportunity to become engaged in your school community and to play an active role in making policy decisions affecting your school. LSC members are elected every two years by parents, community members, and school staff. Members serve two-year terms, with the exception of high school student representatives, who serve one-year terms.

LSCs are responsible for:

- Monitoring the school improvement plan.
- Monitoring the school’s budget and expenditures.
- Evaluating their school’s principal annually, as well as selecting a new contract principal for their school or renewing the contract of their current principal.



## How to Apply

The application window for the 2020 LSC elections opened on December 2, 2019. To apply, candidates must download and fill out the application forms and return them with two forms of identification to the school for which they intend to run as a candidate by March 5, 2020 at 3:00pm.

## How to Vote

Parent and community members may vote by going to their neighborhood CPS public school. In order to vote, as a “Parent”, one must have a child enrolled and attend the school or to vote as a “Community Member”, one must live within the LSC voting boundaries of the school.

At the school, voters will be directed to the Polling Station where an Election Judge will verify their eligibility to vote (voters are required to have two forms of identification), and instructions will be provided on how to complete the ballot. Polling stations are open from 6:00am - 7:00pm.

If you have any questions about the LSC election process, please call (773) 553-1400 or visit <https://cps.edu/lscrelations/Pages/LSCrelations.aspx>.

Please join State Rep. Fran Hurley & State Sen. Bill Cunningham for

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10402 S. Western Ave.  
Chicago

Jobseekers and residents interested in getting more involved with the community are encouraged to join Rep. Hurley and Sen. Cunningham to learn more about jobs with the 2020 Census Bureau and for help applying to be a census taker.

For more information contact Rep. Hurley's constituent service office at 773-445-8128 or [RepFranHurley@gmail.com](mailto:RepFranHurley@gmail.com).

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# 20th Annual Chicago Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

The 20th Annual Chicago Polar Plunge, presented by Jackson, will take place on Sunday, March 1, 2020, offering fearless cold weather warriors the opportunity to take part in an unforgettable day, for an incredible cause. Benefiting the 7500 athletes of the SCC/Special Olympics Chicago program, the Chicago Polar Plunge takes place at North Avenue Beach, and has become the must-attend winter event in the city over the last two decades.

Registration today by visiting [www.ChicagoPolarPlunge.org](http://www.ChicagoPolarPlunge.org). Team registration is also available, as are opportunities for corporate partnerships. Registrants are asked to raise a minimum of \$200. In honor of this milestone year, a number of fundraising incentives have been added. The first 220 registrants will receive a limited-edition commemorative t-shirt. And, the first registered plunger to raise \$2,020 will receive a pair airline tickets, courtesy of United Airlines.

The Chicago Polar Plunge is an enormously important event for Special Olympics Chicago, as it helps to fund the year-round activities and events enjoyed by more than 7500 athletes throughout the city. Funds raised from the Chicago Polar Plunge help to pay for transportation to competitions, uniforms, sports equipment, and more, for the ever-growing Special

Olympics Chicago programs and athletes.

Over the last two decades, the Chicago Polar Plunge has grown tremendously in size. The first Chicago Polar Plunge took place on March 4, 2001 at North Avenue Beach with nearly 200 plungers who braved the seven degree wind chill to raise \$26,000 to support Special Olympics Chicago's growing needs.

In 2019, the Chicago Polar Plunge attracted more than 4000 plungers and raised \$1.8 million dollars. This year, in honor of the 20th Anniversary, the organization hopes to reach \$2 million dollars.

Plungers through the years

have included former Mayor Rahm Emanuel, "The Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon, actors Vince Vaughn and Dax Shepard, musician/artist Lady Gaga, the casts of *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago PD*, and *Chicago Med*, and personalities from "The TODAY Show".

Athletes compete and train in 22 sports throughout the year in over 150 Chicago Public Schools throughout the city and in 25 parks through the Chicago Park District. The Special Olympics Chicago programs that are implemented at the Chicago Public Schools and Chicago Park District are mod-

eled across the country. Support is also provided for arts programming, special events and field trips, and an athlete produced cable access television show.

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).



## ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S SENIOR CITIZEN CORNED BEEF LUNCHEON

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# Cunningham named President pro tem of Illinois Senate

State Senator Bill Cunningham has been named president pro tempore of the Illinois State Senate by Senate President Don Harmon.

“I’m honored to have the opportunity to continue serving in the Illinois Senate as a part of President Harmon’s leadership team,” said Cunningham, a Democrat who represents portions of Chicago and the southwest suburbs. “This is an exciting new role for me and I look forward to the new challenges it brings.”

The Senate president pro tempore is serves as a trusted advisor to the Senate President and is a senior member of his leadership



team.  
“We have a lot of work to do on behalf of the people of Illinois this spring,” Cunningham said. “I’m looking forward to working with President Harmon and my colleagues in the General Assembly to tackle the biggest issues facing our state, including reducing out of control property taxes and reforming our ethics laws to hold those in government accountable.”  
“I am particularly proud that I will be in a more influential position that will enable me to look out for the residents of the 18th Senate District and ensure their needs are met by Springfield,” Cunningham said.

## 3/17 Election Information

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 is Illinois’ Presidential Primary Election; the polls will be open from 6:00am to 7:00pm. On the ballot this time are federal offices like President of United States, Senator, and all Congressmen, Cook County Offices including State’s Attorney, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner, several judges and more. Make sure your voice is heard – vote in this and every election. All voters are eligible to participate in this election via early voting, voting by mail, or voting on Election Day.

### EARLY VOTING

Early voting is available at Mount Greenwood Park (3721 W. 111th St.) from Monday, March 2nd through Monday, March 16th and at the Board of Elections Early Voting Super Site (175 W. Washington St.). Early voting hours are:

- Mon., March 2 - Sat., March 7: 9 am-5 pm
- Sun., March 8: 10 am-4 pm
- Mon., March 9 - Fri., March 13: 9 am-7 pm
- Sat., March 14: 9 am-5 pm
- Sun., March 15: 10 am-4 pm
- Mon., March 16: 9 am-5 pm

### VOTE BY MAIL

Any registered voter may Vote by Mail. Voters do not need a reason or excuse to Vote by Mail. In order to vote by mail, you must first complete a vote by mail application either online or using a paper form. To apply online please visit [www.chicagoelections.com](http://www.chicagoelections.com) and click on the “Voting” button at the top left had of the home page. Paper forms are available at the 19th Ward Office, 10400 S. Western Ave. or can be downloaded from [www.chicagoelections.com](http://www.chicagoelections.com). Vote by mail applications must be received by the Chicago Board of Elections by 5:00pm on Thursday, March 12, 2020.



Upon receiving your completed application, the Chicago Board of Elections will mail you a ballot with return instructions. A mail ballot must be post marked on or before Tuesday, March 17th in order to be counted. Please note, ballots cast in Early Voting or by mail are final; after casting ballots in either method, votes may not return to amend, change, or undo a ballot for any reason.

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# Community Supports Family Impacted by Fire

Last month, a home on the 9100 block of S. Damen Ave. caught fire. The Chicago Fire Department responded and contained the fire. Although members of the family were inside the house when the fire started, they were able to escape without injury. Unfortunately, our neighbors, a family of six people, lost nearly all of their possessions.

The 19th Ward is partnering with the Kellogg Elementary School Community, Christ the King Parish, Chicago High School for Agricultural Science and Bev-

erly Bank & Trust to provide assistance to the family in this difficult time. Anyone interested in helping is invited to drop off gift cards with a note to Kellogg School, Christ the King School or the 19th Ward Service Office, now through the end of February. Monetary donations will be accepted at Beverly Bank & Trust, 10258 S. Western Ave., in care of the Brooks Family Fire Fund.

Thank you in advance for any consideration to help this family in need.

*Join Us!*

**Saturday, February 8:**  
*The Hidden Trauma of School Struggles*

**Saturday, February 23:**  
*Drum Circle*

**New groups starting in March:**  
*Creating Sacred Space*  
*Men's Support Group*  
*Mindfulness for Depression*

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10400 S. Western Ave. • Chicago  
MONDAY-FRIDAY • 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

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Throughout the month of February, Rep. Hurley is hosting a bike donation drive. Donations of new and used bikes are accepted. Bikes will be refurbished and fixed at Park Schwinn Cyclery and given to children in need

For more information contact Rep. Hurley's constituent service office at 773-445-8128 or RepFranHurley@gmail.com.

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# 19th Ward Partners with Smith Village on Valentines for Vets

On Wednesday, Feb. 12, for the fourth year in a row, Smith Village residents, St. Cajetan School student council members, USMC Gold Star Mother Modie Lavin and 19th Ward Alderman Matt O’Shea will convene to create special hand-made Valentines for veterans.

Again, this year, veterans participating in The Road Home program, part of The Center for Veterans and Their Families at Rush will receive the Valentines. This program treats veterans who have served in the Vietnam War and subsequent military conflicts for post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and military sexual trauma.

“This intergenerational tradition started in 2017 when our residents and St. Cajetan students got together to make individual cards and gift bags for veterans,” according to Meghan Maple, associate executive director of Smith Village.

“We are grateful to Alderman Matt O’Shea who added Modie Lavin to our team. Not only is she a Gold Star mother, she also is our link to The Road Home program

where she serves as senior family outreach coordinator. Every year during this event, Modie makes time to visit with our residents who also are Gold Star mothers as well as veterans,” says Maple.

“This annual collaboration has become a very popular event for us. Our students always appreciate the opportunity to spend time with Alderman O’Shea and Smith Vil-

lage residents. In fact, our student council members start raising their hands to volunteer before we can even describe the details of each year’s gift-making idea,” adds Laura Sheeran, a sixth-grade teacher at St. Cajetan School.

“I think all of us receive more than we give with this very special gathering. This community outreach program has one of the big-

gest hearts I’ve ever encountered, and I look forward to being part of it every February. The gratitude expressed by young students and residents fortifies so many parents of veterans and veterans,” states Lavin.

This year in Smith Village’s Community Hall, residents and students join Alderman O’Shea in decorating clay pots and filling them with succulent plants, a symbol of positive energy for growth and renewal. They’ll also create hand-made cards for each of the close to 50 veterans who currently are enrolled in the residential Road Home program. Lavin always delivers these very thoughtful gifts to that community of veterans.

“Valentines for Vets represents what our community is all about,” says Alderman O’Shea. “We are neighbors helping each other and teaming-up to reach out to others whom we do not even know. That’s what makes us such a strong, caring community: people of different ages and experiences coming together to put caring thoughts into action.”



Chicago 19th Ward Alderman Matt O’Shea visits with Smith Village residents (L to R) Noreen McGee and Karen Weber and St. Cajetan students Maeve Flynn and Lauren Sarich during the 2019 Valentines for Vets gathering. In the background, Smith Village staff members (L to R) Kelley Flynn and Meghan Luce appreciate the group’s positive spirit.

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# South Side Irish Parade Fundraiser

The South Side Irish Saint Patrick's Day Parade will kick off this year's festivities with a pre-parade fundraiser on Saturday, February 22, 2020. The event will feature the selection of the South Side Irish Parade Queen, live Irish music and much more. The party will be held from 6:00 – 11:00pm at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 West 115th Street.

Tickets are \$40 at the door and admission includes a dinner buffet, draft beer, wine and pop. The Larkin & Moran Brothers and the Avondale Ramblers will provide live music inside the 115 Bourbon Street Performance Hall. The fundraiser will also feature a quieter approach with Irish traditional music sessions featuring Pat Finnegan & Friends inside the Saloon.

"We are excited to kick off the Saint Patrick's Day festivities with the pre-parade fundraiser, an event that is crucial in raising money to keep our tradition alive and marching down Western Avenue," said Jim Smith, co-chair of the South Side Irish Parade Committee. "If you're unable to make it out to the fundraiser, we encourage families and businesses to consider purchasing a street pole banner as another way to support the parade," added Smith.

The South Side Irish Parade



Queen will be announced at the Pre-Parade Party. The South Side Irish Parade Queen will be prominently featured in the South Side

Irish Saint Patrick's Day Parade and also ride in the downtown Chicago Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Interested

young ladies of Irish descent between the ages of 18-26 are encouraged to apply. Ladies can inquire by emailing their name, age and email address to: [ssipqueen@gmail.com](mailto:ssipqueen@gmail.com).

On Saturday, March 7th the 5th Annual South Side Irish Parade Film Fest will take place at the Beverly Arts Center. The Film Fest will feature the Oscar-nominated animated film "The Secret of Kells" for children at 3:00pm, a pre-feature reception, the evening feature film "Odd Man Out" and a post-film musical performance. For more information and tickets call 773-445-3838 or visit [www.beverlyartcenter.org](http://www.beverlyartcenter.org).

Share your support of the South Side Irish Parade by purchasing a customized Street Pole Banner. If you want to help line the streets with your family name along the parade route from 103rd to 115th or even on 111th Street, please contact Jim McKeever at [jg.mckeever@att.net](mailto:jg.mckeever@att.net).

The parade will step off on Sunday, March 15, 2020, at noon from 103rd & Western.



## UPCOMING EVENTS *with* STATE REPRESENTATIVE FRAN HURLEY

### Extended Office Hours

**Feb. 10th**

5 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
3207 W. 111th St.

### Senior Tech Tuesday

**Feb. 11th**

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Call for Appointment)  
10400 S. Western Ave.

### Mental Health Monday

### Battling Stigmas Against Mental Health

**Feb. 24th**

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
10402 S. Western Ave.

### Extended Office Hours

**March 9th**

5 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
10400 S. Western Ave.

### Mental Health Monday

### Nutrition and Mental Health

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. 10402 S. Western Ave.

For any questions, comments, or concerns please call us at 773-445-8128 or email us at [RepFranHurley@gmail.com](mailto:RepFranHurley@gmail.com)



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## Curtain Call Theatre Camp

June 15 - June 26

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K-4 campers will perform Peter Pan and grades 5-9 will perform The Wizard of Oz.

## Art Camp

July 6 - July 9 and July 13 - July 16

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## ATHLETIC CAMPS

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**June 22-24, 2020**

Session 1 (grades 1st through 4th):  
8:30-10:15 a.m.

Session 2 (grades 5th through 8th):  
10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

### Boys Basketball Camp

**June 22-25, 2020**

9:30 a.m.-Noon (ages 10-16)

### Volleyball Camp

**July 7-8, 2020**

Session 1 (boys grades 4th through 12th):  
10 a.m.-Noon

Session 2 (girls grades 4th through 12th):  
9:30 a.m.-Noon

### Girls Basketball Camp

**July 27-30, 2020**

8 a.m.-3 p.m. (ages 6-14)

### Girls Softball All-Skills Camp

**July 31, 2020**

Session 1 (ages 9-13): 9 a.m.-Noon

Session 2 (ages 14-18): 1-4 p.m.



## ENRICHMENT CAMPS

### Student Media Summer Camp

**June 22-26, 2020**

10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
(high school students)

### Health Careers Exploration Camp

**June 23-25, 2020**

9 a.m.-Noon  
(grades 7th through 12th)

### Camp CSI - Forensic Anthropology

**July 6-10, 2020**

8 a.m.-Noon  
(grades 7th through 9th)

### SXU-Southside Summer Jazz Camp

**July 13-17, 2020**

4:30-8:30 p.m.  
(grades 6th through 12th)



## IMMERSION COURSES

*(College credit for high school students)*

### Intro to Business Course

**June 2-11, 2020**

1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
(grades 10th through 12th)

### Intro to Speech-Language Pathology Course

**June 15-24, 2020**

10 a.m.-Noon  
Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday and Thursday  
(grades 11th and 12th)

### Intro to Nursing Course

**July 13-23, 2020**

9-11 a.m.  
Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday and Friday  
(grades 11th and 12th)



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# Toddlers enrich family spirit for Smith Village residents

If you are lucky enough to spend a day at Smith Village, there's one word you'll hear quite often—family. Nothing says “family” more than youngsters and residents sitting together around a table making crafts, telling stories and having some laughs.

Thanks to Smith Village receptionist Meg Kauffman that is exactly what happens during Toddler Time the first Saturday of every

month since June 2019.

It all started when Meg noticed a change in residents when she brought her young children, 4-year-old Bridie and 1-year-old Maeve, to visit her their great-grandmother Collette O'Connell who enjoys living in her independent living apartment in the life plan community. “When Bridie walks through the halls, all the residents are drawn to her and

she loved the attention too!” says Kauffman.

So, Kaufman organized monthly gatherings of youngsters and residents. “The magic happens when there is an even number of residents and children, these two generations really enjoy each other,” says Kaufman

“This experience has been more profound and successful than I could have imagined,” Kauffman adds. “I made a few calls to families and, all of sudden, we have 15 residents and 15 toddlers coming together making friendships. The residents are excited to see babies and toddlers at Smith Village. They laugh and smile at all their energy without telling them to stop this or don't do that.”

Kaufman and Bridget Murphy, Smith Village's life enrichment concierge, are planning the first major event for Toddler Time with a St. Patrick's Day Parade, reminiscent of how the south side's first neighborhood event with 25 to 30 children holding homemade posters and decorated strollers and marched up and down the blocks of Washtenaw and Talman Avenues. “Because strollers and homemade signs were a big part that inaugural event, we're asking all families to bring strollers and posters to decorate for our parade,” says Murphy.

To inquire about joining Smith Village's Toddler Time group, please call Bridget Murphy at Smith Village at 773-474-7300.



*Smith Village Resident Collette O'Connell with granddaughter Meg Kauffman and great grandchildren Bridie age 4 and Maeve age 1 after Smith Villages populare Toddler Time program.*

## Join Smith Village's Toddler Time Irish Parade

On Saturday, March 7, at 10am, neighborhood youngsters are invited to help start a new tradition when Toddler Time members decorate posters and strollers and parade through Smith Village to delight residents.

To join this new fun event, reservations are required, Call Bridget Murphy at 773-474-7300 before Monday, February 24, because space for being part of the St. Pat's Day Parade is limited.

# Mercy Circle spotlights Therapy Department

“I try to live up to my name,” sums up the outlook and manner of Joy Hampton, a certified occupational therapist. And, she finds, it can be contagious—with coworkers, residents and short-term rehabilitation patients at Mercy Circle, a continuing care retirement community located at 3659 W. 99th St. in Chicago.

You can find out for yourself from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23, when she welcomes you to an open house there. It's your opportunity to visit the faith-based community and check-out its programs, services and amenities, while paying special attention to the physical, occupational and speech therapy department that

provides services six days a week.

According to Hampton, intensive programs with highly skilled therapists produce quicker results and more positive outcomes for people who recover in a comfortable private suite. She finds her job very rewarding because she helps people to recover, gain independence and get back home.

“It's important an older adults feel confident and steady when walking and when rising from a chair or bed,” says Hampton. “Not only do our therapists help patients regain the strength temporarily diminished by a medical incident or surgery, we also make sure they have a strong sense of balance to avoid falls and stumbles. A simple

fall can have lifelong consequences, so we always focus on building strength and stamina.”

While you're at Mercy Circle, Hampton suggests you also get a look at the community's fitness center, chapel, dining rooms, beauty salon and library. She encourages everyone to ask questions about the many services and continuum of care available.

No reservations are necessary. And there's ample free

parking available in Mercy Circle's lot accessible from 99th Street.



*Meet Joy Hampton, one of Mercy Circle's highly regarded therapists, on Sunday, Feb. 23.*



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**Steven Graves, Managing-Broker**  
773-216-5818

**Rhett Graves 773-430-1694**

Marilyn Gallagher • John M. Healy • John Healy • Karen Healy  
Meghan Healy • Susan Malone • Mark O'Shea • Bill Pratt • Maryann Pittacora

**EXPERIENCED AGENTS: MAKE MORE MONEY, CONTACT STEVE**

**Our 12th Year**



# ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S SENIOR CITIZEN

# Valentine's Day



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**FEBRUARY 14, 2020**

**1:00 PM**

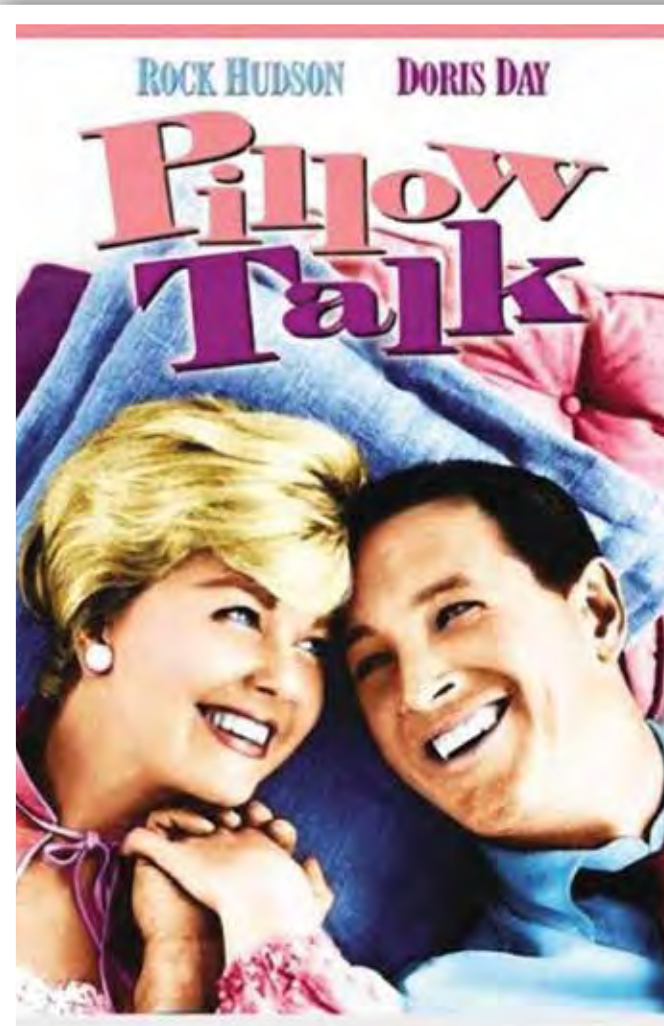
**115 Bourbon Street  
3359 West 115th Street**

\$5 Admission includes ice cream sundae,  
popcorn, soft drinks and coffee.

The 19th Ward Department of Streets &  
Sanitation Superintendent will be present  
to collect service requests and address any  
concerns from residents.

Open to 19th Ward Residents only.

Reservations required: 773.238.8776 or  
margie@the19thward.com



Featuring the movie  
***Pillow Talk***

SPONSORED BY:

**Matt  
O'SHEA**  
19TH WARD ALDERMAN

**Fran  
Hurley**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 35TH DISTRICT

**Bill  
Cunningham**  
ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR 18TH DISTRICT

**Smith  
VILLAGE**

**BOURBON  
Street**

**MERCY  
CIRCLE**