

19th WARD Quarterly

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

AUGUST 2020

CPS to Invest Nearly \$3 Million at Kellogg

Kellogg Elementary School will receive nearly \$3 million in capital improvements under a plan announced by CPS CEO Dr. Janice Jackson and Alderman Matt O'Shea. The project will address some long-time issues in the building, improve ADA accessibility and install a new playground. Kellogg is a Level 1+ school, the highest rating a CPS school can earn, in the North Beverly community.

"For the past several years, I've been working with Dr. Jackson and Dr. McDade to bring investment to Kellogg. I'm very excited at this first step and look forward to these badly needed improvements coming to Kellogg" said Alderman O'Shea

The first phase of work will include the demolition of the exist-

ing playground and provide a new, poured in place rubber surface playground for children age 2-12. Classroom doors and some walls will be removed and replaced with larger setbacks making the building more ADA compliant and improving student's ability to travel within the school. Diverse learners currently make up over 16% of Kel-

logg's student population.

Phase 1 will also include bathroom renovations. The boys and girls washrooms on the first and second floors will be demolished. New floors, wall tile, bathroom equipment, sinks and hand dryers will be installed. The project will also feature new roof mounted exhaust and ventilation grills, LED

light fixtures and controls, and floor drains. All floor drains will also be rodded to the nearest catch basin.

In addition to the four student bathrooms, the staff washroom on the second floor will receive a full renovation. Phase one is estimated to cost over \$1.2 million dollars be completed in the 2020-2021 school year.

Phase 2, slated to occur during the 2021-2022 school year, will significantly improve the ADA accessibility of the school. A new, two story elevator will be installed on the north side of the building as well as a new switchback ramp at the main entrance. A new stage lift will also be installed in the Auditorium / Gym. The preliminary budget for phase 2 is \$1.2 million.



Students & faculty pose for a photo at Kellogg Elementary School.

Divvy Bikes Coming to 19th Ward

Divvy, the popular bike sharing service, will expand to Chicago's far south side including Beverly, Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood. Eleven Divvy stations are planned, including several locations near Metra stations.

The expansion will include traditional Divvy bikes as well as some of the company's new pedal-assist ebikes.

By boosting riders' own pedal power, Divvy ebikes will make it easier for people of all riding abilities to ride and help people make longer trips with ease. The ebikes can be unlocked using a scannable, contactless QR code in both the Divvy and Lyft apps, or by using a member key. Divvy ebikes have "hybrid" technology, making it possible for the bikes to be parked at designated Divvy docking stations — including new e-stations for ebikes-only — as well as at public bike racks. Parking is made



easy by using a built-in cable lock, which will give riders more flexibility.

The first round of Divvy stations will include several Rock Island Metra Stations...91st Street, 99th Street, 107th Street, and 115th Street, as well as the intersections of: 103rd and Western, 111th and Western, 111th and Kedzie, and near the intersections of 103rd and Kedzie and 111th and Lawndale. Two e-bike stations will be installed at Saint Xavier University (103rd and Lawndale) and Kellogg School (92nd and Hamilton).

For more information, please visit www.divvybikes.com.

ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S COVID-19 TELEPHONE TOWN HALL MEETING

**TUESDAY, AUG 25, 2020
7:00 - 8:30PM**

With Special Guests:

Dr. Jennifer Seo
Medical Director, Chicago
Department of Public Health

Sean Joyce
Commander, 22nd District
Chicago Police Department

Jaclyn O'Day
Deputy Chief of Staff,
Congressman Dan Lipinski

Chauncey Rice
City Clerk's Office

To register, please visit
www.the19thward.com

Co-Sponsored By:
Senator Bill Cunningham & State Rep. Fran Hurley



Free COVID Testing

Free coronavirus testing will be available at the 19th Ward Office on August 20th and 27th from 10:00am-4:00pm. Advanced registration is strongly encouraged and can be done at chicagocovidtesting.com. Results are expected in 3-5 days; if you are planning to get tested please do not eat, drink or smoke for at least 20 minutes before you are tested.

COVID testing is sponsored by the Community Organized Relief Effort, Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham and Representative Fran Hurley.

Local Postal Customer

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CALUMET CITY, IL
PERMIT NO. 17

10402 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643

Get Behind the Vest

Last month, Alderman Matt O'Shea joined the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation to announce the distribution of over 2,200 new bullet proof vests through the Get Behind the Vest Campaign. Amongst those receiving vests was Chicago Police Officer Nathaniel Hollis, whose vest stopped a bullet last month while responding to a call of shots fired. The 19th Ward Youth Foundation's "Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast" has supported this campaign for the past six years;

in total the event has raised nearly \$200,000 to purchase new bullet proof vests.

On Thursday, July 29th, three Chicago Police Officers were shot in an incident at the 25th District Station. Thankfully, all three officers were wearing bullet proof vests, including one who had just picked up a new vest through this program the week before. This incident is yet another reminder of the importance of this campaign. For more information please visit cpdmemorial.org.



Chicago Police Officer Nathaniel Hollis.

19TH WARD BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL – NORTH GYM
10001 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago

In order to minimize wait times, appointments are strongly encouraged and can be made at www.save3lives.org

Use code **CS01** to locate this blood drive.



THE COMMUNITY
BLOOD CENTER
connecting lives | sharing life

www.communityblood.org

19TH WARD

DOCUMENT SHREDDING

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 2020

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

CROSSWINDS CHURCH
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:

Matt O'SHEA
19TH WARD ALDERMAN

Bill Cunningham
ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR 18TH DISTRICT

Fran Hurley
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 35TH DISTRICT



19TH WARD PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK EVENT

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Unwanted and/or expired drugs
- ✓ Legally held drugs and narcotics (Schedules II, III, IV, V)
- ✓ Bring only medication items from private households – NOT medications from businesses or doctor's offices
- ✓ Medications should be in their original containers, or you can place pills in a sealed plastic bag

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- ✗ Needles, syringes, lancets, injection pens
- ✗ Medical waste
- ✗ Liquids
- ✗ Chemo/cytotoxic drugs
- ✗ Contaminated materials, such as gloves, tubing or IV bags
- ✗ Batteries, aerosol spray cans
- ✗ Trash or other hazardous material
- ✗ Illicit drugs (Schedule I controlled substances) such as marijuana, cocaine, heroin & methamphetamine

Turn in your unused or expired prescription medication for safe disposal

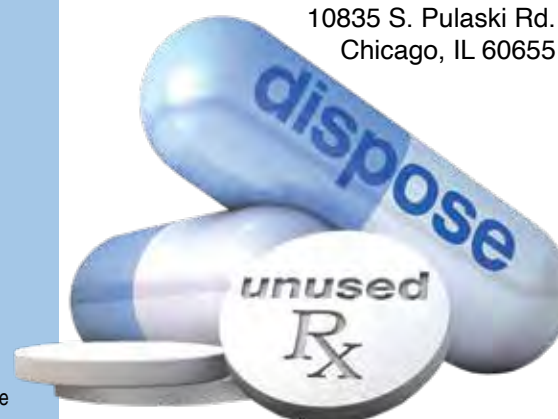
IT'S FREE, EASY & RESPONSIBLE

Saturday, Sept. 19th

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

CrossWinds Church

10835 S. Pulaski Rd.
Chicago, IL 60655



SPONSORED BY

Matt O'SHEA
19TH WARD ALDERMAN

Bill Cunningham
ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR 18TH DISTRICT

Fran Hurley
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 35TH DISTRICT



All That Good Stuff Parking Lot Comedy

The popular All That Good Stuff comedy show is coming soon to a parking lot near you! On Thursday, August 20th All That Good Stuff will offer an outdoor comedy show in the parking lot of Barraco's Beverly location (2105 W. 95th St.); doors will open at 7:30pm and comedy will begin promptly at 8:00pm. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the show will be capped at 50 people with masks and social distancing required. All guests will receive an application of hand sanitizer upon entry.



A second parking lot show is planned for Thursday, September 17th in the parking lot of La Fiesta Restaurant at 3333 W. 111th St. Tickets are \$10 per person and include one drink ticket; food and beverage will be available for purchase. Both events are expected to sell out. Tickets can be purchased online at www.the19thward.com.

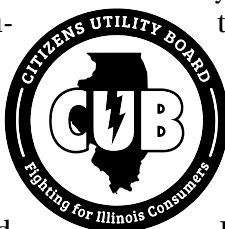
Parking lot comedy is co-sponsored by Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, and Representative Fran Hurley.

Save Money with CUB Today

Coronavirus has not stopped the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) from helping people save money! CUB staffers are available to connect with consumers virtually to offer free utility bill analysis. As part of this free service, a CUB specialist reviews your bills to see if you're paying any unnecessary charges and tells you if you're eligible for money saving programs. They will also check to see if you're signed

up for optional providers or services that are not in your best interest and may be costing you money.

If you want to submit your bills to CUB's virtual utility bill clinic, email a copy of your most recent electric, natural gas and telecom bills to ubc@citizensutilityboard.org and put "Attn: Virtual Utility Bill Clinic" in the subject line. Sending this simple email can result in significant savings on your monthly utilities.



High School 101: A Seminar for Parents

Attention parents of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students! Now is the time to start your search for the right high school. Alderman Matt O'Shea and the Beverly Area Planning Association will host High School 101, a zoom seminar designed to help guide parents through the high school selection process on Thursday, September 10th at 7:00pm.

A representative from Chicago Public Schools will be on hand to explain the process for applying to selective enrollment high schools. In addition,

the Principals from the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences and Morgan Park High School with both share information about their schools and answer your questions.

19th Ward families have a lot of choices when it comes to high school. Please join us for information and tips to help you navigate this process. This free seminar will be conducted entirely via zoom; to sign up for the seminar please visit www.the19thward.com or www.bapa.org.

CHICAGO VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES
MORTGAGE RELIEF AVAILABLE TO COVID19 AFFECTED HOMEOWNERS

Has COVID-19 made it hard to make your mortgage payments?

If you have a federally-backed mortgage and have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible for up to one year of deferred mortgage payments.

HOTLINE
(312) 332-8785

EMAIL
covid@cvs.org

WEBSITE
www.cvs.org/covid

Be ready to provide this information when you call or email:

- Name
- Phone Number
- Property Address
- Court Case Number (____CH____) if a foreclosure's been filed

All hotline calls will be directed to a voice mailbox. We will contact you within 2 business days.

HEALTHY CHICAGO

RESIDENTIAL ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PROGRAM

Now it's easier than ever to get rid of your old electronics!

- Computer
- Computer Monitor
- TV
- Printer, Fax, Scanner
- Keyboards & Mice
- VCRs, DVD Players, DVD Recorders

- Video Game Consoles
- Portable Digital Music Players
- Digital Converter Boxes
- Cable & Satellite Receivers
- Small-Scale Servers

Recycle them at one of the City's drop off locations (April 1st - December 30th):

LOCATION	OPERATING DAYS	HOURS
1150 N. North Branch St. Chicago, IL 60642 Open year round	Every Tuesday Every Thursday 1st Saturday of every month	7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
6441 N. Ravenswood Ave. Chicago, IL 60626	1st Wednesday of every month	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
4808 W. Wilson Ave. Chicago, IL 60630	1st Friday of every month	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
1817 S. Pulaski Road Chicago, IL 60623	2nd Wednesday of every month	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
8559 S. Vincennes Ave. Chicago, IL 60620	2nd Friday of every month	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
2300 W. 52nd St. Chicago, IL 60609	3rd Wednesday of every month	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
900 E. 103rd St. Chicago, IL 60628	3rd Friday of every month	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

It's the law - and it's good for the environment, too.
PLEASE NOTE THAT ONCE THE TRUCK IS FULL, NO MORE ELECTRONICS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Materials should not be left at the locations outside of operating hours.
ONLY the listed items are eligible for recycling.
Commercial and other residential electronics will not be accepted.

To learn more about this program, please visit www.chicago.gov/hccrf.

Walk Up

FREE COVID-19 TESTING

**19th Ward Office
Rear Parking Lot
10400 S Western Ave
August 20 + August 27
10AM - 4PM**

Non-painful mouth swab | Results in 3-5 days

No ID required | No eating/drinking/smoking 20min before

PRE-REGISTER for reduced wait time
chicagocovidtesting.com
or scan the QR code:

It’s Time to Kick Flavored Tobacco Out of Chicago

By Samantha Stinson,
Campaign Manager for the
Chicago Flavors Campaign

Cotton Candy, Gummy Bear, Mango Cheesecake, Fuji Apple, Strawberry Nectarine and Peanut Butter Cup. They sound like flavors in a candy shop, but they’re all flavors of tobacco products designed to target children.

In July, equity and inclusion leaders in Chicago, including Alderman O’Shea, and public health groups came together to urge the Chicago City Council to end the sale of flavored tobacco products. A new city ordinance is under consideration that would end the tobacco industry’s targeting of youth and communities of color by selling menthol cigarettes, flavored cigars, hookah and smokeless tobacco and protect the health of Chicago kids from a lifetime addiction.

“Given the link between respi-

ratory issues and the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that we act now to protect young people from a lifetime of tobacco addiction,” said Alderman O’Shea at the press conference in July. “We are at a critical time where we have the opportunity to save children’s lives by getting these products out of circulation. It is imperative that we act now to save our next generation from a lifetime of health issues.”

Racial disparities affect every part of our lives in Chicago, with white residents living an average of nine years longer than Black residents. If we truly want to bridge the

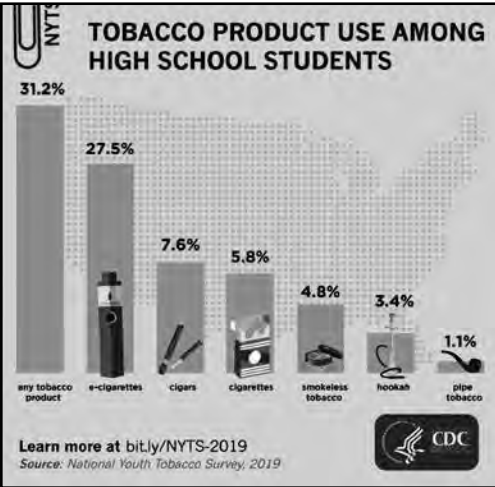
gaps in health and longevity in minority populations’ quality of life, we must address the root causes of disease and death. Flavored tobacco may be the single biggest cause of that gap, particularly because individuals often begin their tobacco use as teens. For the sake of our children and the generations of Chicagoans to come, we must reclaim our health and end tobacco’s grip on our city’s most vulnerable residents.

City Council shouldn’t wait to ensure that our kids are protected from tobacco’s deadly toll. At current usage rates, 230,000 kids

currently under 18 in Illinois will ultimately die prematurely from smoking. This law is especially important with the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine, people who smoke are at 2.4 times higher risk for severe complications than non-smokers.

Alderman O’Shea continues to fight vigorously for the ban of flavored tobacco products and I commend him for speaking up and taking a stand for what is most important – the health and wellness of our children. Alongside Alderman O’Shea, this our plea to all Chicagoans to come together and make sure this bill goes forward NOW. We can’t sit back and let Big Tobacco make million dollar profits while putting our children at risk. It’s time to take action.

Visit FlavorsHookKidsChicago.org for more information.



BAPA Garden Walk

After a rough spring and summer of cancelled plans and foregone gatherings due to pandemic restrictions, the Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA) is planning an outdoor event that’s sure to restore community spirits: the Beverly/Morgan Park Garden Walk.

Join us on Sunday, September

13th, 11:00am - 4:00pm to visit some of the neighborhood’s most beautiful private gardens and hidden spaces as the beauty of summer begins its transformation into the vibrant colors of fall. Gardens are being selected for their quality and variety, and will feature sunny and shady locations, and mixes of annuals and perennials, flowers and

veggies, and formal and casual places. Details will be announced in the September issue of The Villager.

Showcasing spaces throughout the neighborhood, the Garden Walk will be organized following safety guidelines that include planned physical distancing, staggered starting points and wearing masks. Fun and informative

experiences will also be staged in many of the gardens, including tastings, garden tips and music.

BAPA is recruiting Garden Walk volunteers (gardening knowledge helpful but not required) as well as sponsorships. For information, email bapa@bapa.org or call (773) 233-3100.

Welcome Class of 2024

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

CULTIVATING LEADERS SINCE 1985



WE'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER



FARM FRESH
Sweet Corn
in late August

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES!

LEARNING TO DO. DOING TO LEARN. EARNING TO LIVE. LIVING TO SERVE

3857 W. 111th Street www.chicagoagr.org 773.535.2500

95th Street Farmers Market

The 95th Street Farmers Market is open every Sunday through October 25th from 8:00am – 1:00pm at 1835 W. 95th Street (95th & Longwood Dr.). Before opening for the year, the market conducted an extensive review of best practices and safety protocols. Masks are required and all patrons will receive an application of hand sanitizer upon entrance; free masks are available if needed.

This year, all guests are required to enter using the eastern parking lot entrance. Controlling the entry point ensures that everyone will receive their application of hand sanitizer. The first hour is also reserved for senior citizens and people with compromised immune systems.

Due to the new rules governing markets, there will be no on premises food preparation. Vendors are unable to provide samples. All musical entertainment, children's activities, yoga and other interactive features have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anyone who is feeling sick or experiencing cold or flu symptoms is asked to stay home. Those who do attend the market are asked to follow social distancing guidelines while shopping and reminded not to touch any produce or products; vendors are happy to assist you with your purchase.

A complete list of vendors is below:

- C & D Farms
- Lafavor Farms and Greenhouses
- Stamper Cheese Company
- John Bailey Honey
- Coco's Tamales
- Breadman Baking Company
- Piscasaw Gardens
- Emmy & J's Dips
- AndySunflower Café
- Lizzie's Baked Goods
- Noffke Family Farms

Two vendors, Lafavor Farms and Greenhouses and Coco's Tamales, offer the option to place an order for pick up each Sunday. This is a great way to bypass lines. Please visit their Facebook pages for more information.

Follow the 95th Street Farmers Market Facebook page and Instagram @95thstreetfarmersmarket, for weekly updates on products offered by vendors and updates on the market. The 95th Street Farmers Market is sponsored by Southtown Health Foods, OSF Healthcare, Beverly Bank, Alderman Matt O'Shea, State Representative Fran Hurley, State Senator Bill Cunningham, and the 95th Street Business Association.

Senior Discounts & Benefits

CITY OF CHICAGO

Senior Citizen Sewer Service Charge Exemption & Rebate

The Senior Citizen Sewer Exemption entitles seniors aged 65 or over, residing in their own residence with separate metered water service or a separate city water assessment for that residential unit, to an exemption from payment of the sewer service charge for their residence. This exemption provides substantial savings to seniors.

Senior Citizens, who own and occupy their own residence, but who are not eligible for the Senior Citizen Sewer Charge Exemption due to property type, can apply for the Senior Citizen Sewer Rebate. This provides an annual \$50 rebate in lieu of the exemption.

For eligibility and to apply, visit www.chicago.gov.

CITY CLERK

Senior Discount City Sticker

Per City Ordinance, residents that meet the requirements are eligible to purchase one discounted City Sticker at \$32.08 per year for a Passenger (P), Large Passenger (LP) or Motorbike (MB) and one discounted City Sticker at \$135 per year for a Small Truck (ST).

For requirements and restrictions, visit www.chicityclerk.com.

COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption

Seniors can save, on average, up to \$300 a year in property taxes, and up to \$750 when combined with the Homeowner Exemption. The applicant must have owned and occupied the property as of January 1 and must have been 65 years of age or older during the tax year in question.

The Assessor's Office now automatically renews Senior Citizen Exemptions for properties that were not sold to new owners in the last year.

Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption

Qualified senior citizens can apply for a freeze of the assessed value of their property. Over time, in many areas, this program results in taxes changing minimally and often decreasing as surrounding properties continue to rise in assessed value. This is the most valuable homeowner exemption program. The value increases over the years as it eliminates the impact of regular reassessment increases that may occur every three years.

For Tax Year 2019 (payable in 2020), the applicant must have owned and occupied the home on January 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019 and have been responsible for the 2018 and 2019 taxes.

You reapply every year for the Senior Freeze Exemption.

For eligibility requirements regarding the Senior Citizen Homestead and Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemptions, visit www.cookcountyassessor.com.

COOK COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Senior Citizen Garbage Fee Discount

No application is required. If a customer is currently receiving the Cook County Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze, the Senior Garbage Fee Discount will be automatically applied to their utility bill. For more information on the Cook County Senior Freeze, visit www.cookcountytreasurer.com.

Senior Citizen Tax Deferral

The household income limit to participate in this program has increased to \$55,000. This program works like a loan from the State of Illinois to qualified senior citizens, with an annual interest rate of 6%. Any portion or all (up to \$5,000 per year) of the tax may be deferred until the house is sold or until the death of the taxpayer. To apply, contact the Cook County Treasurer's Office at 312.443.5100 or visit www.cookcountytreasurer.com.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Reduced Fee License Plate

The Department on Aging's Benefit Access Program, formerly known as the Circuit Breaker Program, allows for the Secretary of State's office to provide for a reduced-fee license plates aimed toward senior citizens and persons with disabilities with specific qualifications.

Super Seniors

Super Seniors is a convenient and voluntary program for driver's license renewal, which includes Rules of the Road classroom instruction, and a vision-screening exam. The Rules of the Road Review Course also includes a review of safe driving techniques and Illinois driving laws.

For more information on the reduced fee license plate and Super Seniors, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGING

Benefits Access Program Benefits

- Seniors Ride Free Transit Benefit
- Persons with Disabilities Free Transit Ride
- Secretary of State License Plate Discount

To be determined eligible for these benefits, you must submit a Benefit Access Application on the Internet. Paper applications are not available. Please note that current processing times to determine eligibility of your Benefits Access Application is approximately 12 weeks. For more information and the online application, visit www2.illinois.gov.

Senior Health Insurance Program

The Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), which is a free statewide health insurance counseling service for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers. Visitors will find information and resources about applying for Medicare, sites in their area that they can get assistance applying for Medicare and tools for SHIP sites around the State to utilize in serving Medicare beneficiaries. For more information, visit www2.illinois.gov.

Shared Cost Sidewalk Program

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program is an extremely popular voluntary program in which property owners share the cost of sidewalk repair with the City. This popular program consists of low cost, exceptional value, and ease of participation. The program's cost per square foot charged to property owners is well below what a private contractor would charge. Senior citizens and persons with disabilities may qualify for a further discounted rate.

Applications are taken on a first-come, first-served basis and only accepted through the City's 311 system by calling 311 or through the City's service request website 311.chicago.gov. The property owner's contact information and the property address are required at the time of request. The date for January 2021 has not been announced at this time. Please call the office in December with an update.

ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S

Virtual **CHAIR YOGA**

with Morica Bright

WEDNESDAYS

AUG. 19th AUG. 26th SEPT. 2nd

at 2:00 P.M.

Chair yoga is offered **free** of charge and can be viewed online at www.the19thward.com.

Chair yoga is a great way to get the wonderful health benefits of yoga from the comfort of your chair. Staying seated means that even people who are frail or aren't flexible can safely complete the exercises. Yoga is a great way to loosen and stretch muscles, reduce stress, and improve circulation. It also reduces blood pressure, protects joints and builds strength and balance.

For more information please contact (773) 238-8766 or mattoshea@the19thward.com.

SPONSORED BY:

Matt O'SHEA
19TH WARD ALDERMAN

Fran Hurley
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 35TH DISTRICT

Bill Cunningham
ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR • 18TH DISTRICT

A black and white photograph of three teenagers smiling and laughing. A young man with curly hair is on the left, a young woman with long blonde hair is in the center, and another young man with long hair is on the right. They are all looking towards the camera.

WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE 19TH WARD YOUTH FOUNDATION

Being Beverly's neighborhood bank means more than just offering solid banking solutions. It means doing our part to give back to the local charities and social organizations that unite and strengthen our communities. We're particularly proud to support the 19th Ward Youth Foundation and its dedication to hosting a wide variety of safe, healthy, and educational youth activities for children and teens in our area.

BEVERLY BANK
& TRUST COMPANY N.A.TM

BEVERLY'S NEIGHBORHOOD BANK

10258 S. Western Ave. | 1908 W. 103rd St.
Chicago, IL 60643 | 773-239-2265
www.thebeverlybank.com

Proud to be part of the **WINTRUST** family



2020 Census Update

Have you completed your 2020 US Census? Census data determines funding for Public Safety, Schools, Roads, Hospitals, Senior Care, and so much more. Failing to complete the Census will cost Chicago \$1,500 a year per person for the next 10 years. That's why I am asking anyone who hasn't yet to complete the census today at www.my2020census.gov.

Spending 10 minutes to com-

plete your census questionnaire can help ensure that our community gets its fair share of federal tax resources. Receiving more federal dollars will help our budget crisis and reduce our reliance on property taxes.

As of August 7th, more than 4,000 19th Ward households have not completed the 2020 Census questionnaire. Please help us make sure all residents are counted!

Neighborhood	Response Rate	Uncounted Households
BEVERLY	76%	1,246
MORGAN PARK	69%	1,770
MOUNT GREENWOOD	72%	2,287

Citizen Utility Board Virtual Cable/Robocall Presentations

Alderman Matt O'Shea and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) will host two virtual cable/robocall presentations on Thursday, August 27th from 1:00 - 2:00pm and Tuesday, September 1st from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.

During the virtual cable/robocall presentations, a CUB representative will discuss the different choices in the TV market, ways to cut your cable costs, is it time remove 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 book, and new proposed fed-

eral legislation.

August 27th @ 1:00pm
<https://tinyurl.com/y6xuzcew>

September 1st @ 6:00pm
<https://tinyurl.com/y55kqsbb>

There is no cost for these events. Space is limited! To reserve your spot today, please contact Joe Giamberdino at jgiamberdino@citizensutilityboard.org with the subject line "19th Ward - 8/27" or "19th Ward - 9/1" or call him at (312) 263-4282, extension 111. For money-saving advice and consumer tips, visit www.citizensutilityboard.org.

Fore the Macs Outing

In place of Mother McAuley's traditional Fore the Macs: Playing it Forward Golf Outing, they are offering two exciting opportunities to raise funds in support of their Tradition of Excellence Scholarship. Due to the generosity of supporters last year, they were able to award 57 members of the class of 2024 with a \$1,000 Tradition of Excellence Scholarship - help them do the same this year by participating in one - or both! - of the following.

Fore the Macs Golf Raffle

Hit the links at some of Chicago-land's most prestigious golf courses by entering the Fore the Macs Golf Raffle! Courses include Lost Dunes Golf Club, Butterfield Country Club, Chicago Highlands Club, Point O' Woods Golf & Country Club, and more!

They will pull one winner for each course (nine total), starting with the grand prize. Winners will receive a threesome to play 18 holes with a

member at the club.

Tickets are 1 for \$100 or 6 for \$500. Entries are due by 11:59 pm on Thursday, September 10, 2020. Winners will be selected on September 11, 2020.

Sponsor a Student through their Sponsorship Opportunities

All sponsors will be recognized on Mother McAuley's website, in golf raffle emails, on their social media accounts, on the digital billboard outside of McAuley, in the spring 2021 issue of their alumnae magazine, and in their annual report. You can view the various sponsorship levels and ways you can sponsor a student on their website.

Learn more: <https://www.mothermcauley.org/alumnae/calendar/fore-the-macs-playing-it-forward-golf-raffle-2020>

For more information or questions, contact Peggy Rourke at 773-881-6547 or via email at prouke@mothermcauley.org.

CVLS Offers Mortgage Help

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) allows struggling homeowners who have federally-backed mortgages to pause mortgage payments for at least six months and up to one year. Once payments resume, lenders must review the homeowners for a range of payment options, including loan modifications. The Act also freezes foreclosure actions in court.

A homeowner must ask the bank for this relief while the President's disaster declaration is still in effect. Most people don't know about the program

and time is of the essence.

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services has created a simple step-by-step tool to help homeowners find out if they are eligible for this relief and to request it if they are. Instructions, form letters, and links to helpful sites and FAQs are free and available to anyone on CVLS' website at <https://www.cvls.org/get-legal-help/covid-19-relief/>.

Homeowners can also call CVLS's hotline or send an email: 312-332-8785; cvls@cvls.org to get free help with the process.

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Survey Finds Rampant USPS Issues

In the face of major citywide postal service issues, Alderman Matt O’Shea joined Senator Dick Durbin and 43 City Council members in calling for a meeting with the Chicago Postmaster General. The communities of Beverly, Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood have a history of poor service from the United States Postal Service (USPS) over the past several years. Throughout the COVID pandemic, the problem has grown significantly.

To better understand the range of this issue, the 19th Ward partnered with the Beverly Area Planning Association to survey residents about their mail service. 3,058 responses were collected between July 28th and August 4th with 52%, or 1601 residents reporting that they are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the quality of their mail service. 52% (1596 residents) of respondents also report that their service has gotten worse during the pandemic.

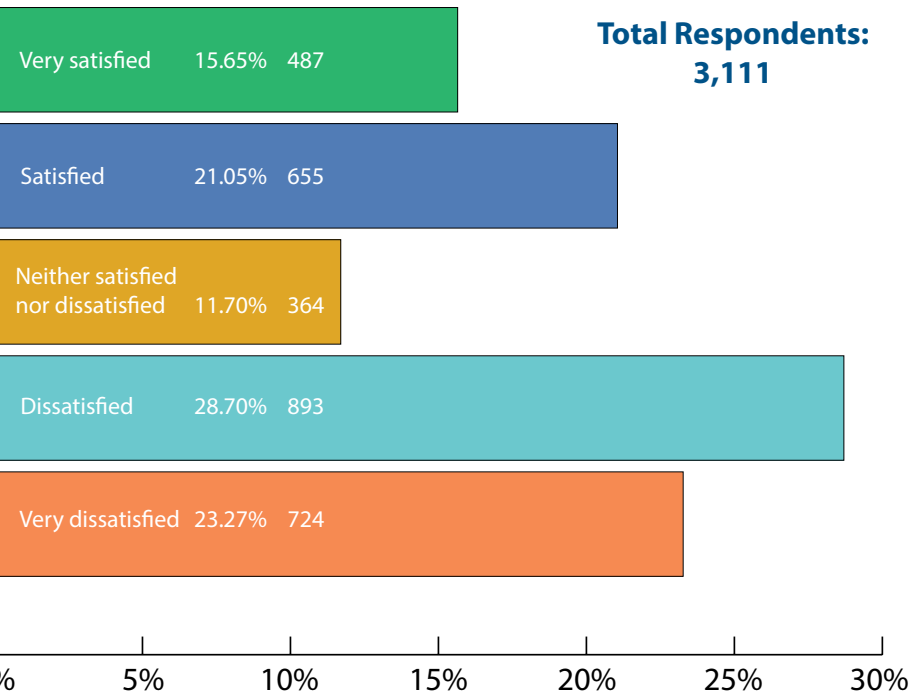
The Coronavirus has made working from home more prevalent and caused at-risk individuals to obtain prescriptions via mail to limit exposure to the disease. Disruptions in mail service have de-

layed receipt of paychecks and other important financial documents as well as prescription drugs. In anticipation of unprecedented demand for mail ballots, voters have serious concerns about the (USPS) role in the upcoming Presidential Election.

52% of respondents report being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with mail being delivered on time while only 40% regularly receive mail Monday through Saturday. 68% of residents report regularly missing mail service, with 3.6 percent (108 respondents) have gone a week or longer without receiving mail.

Earlier this year, 19th Ward local elected officials joined Congressman Dan Lipinski in requesting an investigation into service complaints at the Mount Greenwood Post Office. In response, the postal service declined the request and reported a 97.5% customer satisfaction level in the 60655 zip code. The full results of the survey have been shared with the Chicago Postmaster, USPS’s Office of Inspector General, and members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

How satisfied are you with the quality of your mail service?



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

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Fall Fun

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October 10

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Special Olympics Chicago Launches #CanDo Running Series

SCC/Special Olympics Chicago (SOC) has launched the #CanDo Running Series, a unique running experience that offers the opportunity to run or walk in virtual local races in the city, including the Midway Fly Away 5K, or a race of participants choosing. Those who take part in one or more races will enjoy amazing prizes and benefits, while helping to support the 7500 athletes who participate in the SOC program.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all races will be available to take part in virtually. Participants who complete one race and raise \$250, will receive a dri-fit t-shirt and medal. Those who raise \$500 will receive a medal, dri-fit t-shirt, and hydration backpack. And, fitness lovers who participate in one race and raise \$1000, will receive a medal, dri-fit t-shirt, and FitBit Inspire.

Runners or walkers who participate in all three races and raise \$1000 or more will receive a medal, dri-fit t-shirt, FitBit Inspire, and hydration backpack.

To register for races, please visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/cando/>. At that site, participants can create a fundraising page while raising money to support the athletes of SOC.

For those needing an idea for

an upcoming race to participate in, Special Olympics Chicago is offering the annual Midway Fly Away 5K, which was originally scheduled to take place on September 20th, virtually.

Although the 2020 Bank of America Chicago Marathon has been cancelled, SOC will still have a running team for those who want to participate in the virtual option provided by the Chicago Marathon. SOC is working closely with the Bank of America Chicago Marathon to provide a cohesive marathon experience for all runners who have signed up for the Special Olympics Chicago running team. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Fundraisers such as the Midway Fly Away 5K, and the Bank of America Chicago Marathon help to fund the year-round activities and events enjoyed by Special Olympics Chicago athletes throughout the city. Funds raised help to pay for transportation to competitions, uniforms, sports equipment, and more, for the ever-growing Special Olympics Chicago programs and athletes.

To partner with Special Olympics Chicago on an upcoming race, please contact Emily Smith at emily.smith@sochicago.org



Yoga in the Park



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Join Rep. Burke for free, hour-long yoga sessions in the park. Each session will be led by a certified yoga instructor. Participants must practice social distancing and wear a mask when arriving to and leaving the class.

Space is limited, and participants are encouraged to pre-register at
www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4caaaf2aalfcl-yoga

Don't forget to bring a yoga mat!

For more information, please contact Rep. Burke's constituent service office at 708-425-0571 or KBurke@KellyBurkeRep36.org.

Support Breast Cancer Research

Although Ginger Rugai's Annual Y-Me Softball Tournament was cancelled, the need to fund crucial breast research is not. The tournament's Board of Directors initiated alternative fundraising projects to raise money and help breast cancer patients – current and future — by supporting the lifesaving research conducted by Dr. Kay Macleod, University of Chicago Medicine, Ben May Institute. More than 90% of all funds raised go directly to life-saving research.

In lieu of the softball tournament, which would have celebrated its 26th year this August, the Ginger Rugai Y-Me 2020 Summer Games was created as a way for teams to gather in small, socially distant groups to celebrate survivors and all who are touched by breast cancer while looking forward to bringing back the fun in 2021.

How to Support Y-Me and Breast Cancer Research

Join the Ginger Rugai Y-Me 2020 Summer Games. Supporters can join in the fun as part of a team. For \$30, team players will receive the 2020 Y-Me t-shirt and a choice of one of two lawn signs. Sign up

for the Summer Games by searching "Y-Me" on Eventbrite.com, search for Y-Me. Further Summer Games details will be sent to those who sign up!

Purchase Masks. Add to your mask collection with high-quality, comfortable masks adorned with the Y-Me logo. Masks are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Purchase via Venmo @YME-Softball and add "masks" to the comment section, or visit Everything's Relative, 10548 S. Western Ave. to purchase in person.

Add a Lawn Sign to Your Yard. Lawn signs are \$20 each and two styles are available. Purchase via Venmo @YME-

Softball and add your name and sign choice, either "Sign 1 Proud Supporter" or "Sign 2 In Honor Of", to the comment section.

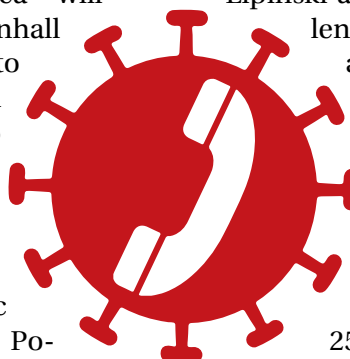
Stock up on merchandise. Y-Me partnered with Marathon Sportswear to offer long-sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, winter hats, and more! Items will ship after the store closes on Monday, August 31st. See what's available at Y-MeSummerGames2020.itemorder.com/sale. Be a Sponsor of the Summer Games or donate at www.y-mesoftball.com



Telephone Town Hall – August 25

On Tuesday, August 25th, Alderman Matt O'Shea will host a telephone townhall meeting at 7:00pm to update residents on Chicago's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The call will include Dr. Jennifer Seo from the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), 22nd Police District Commander Sean Joyce, as well as staff from

the offices of Congressman Dan Lipinski and City Clerk Anna Valencia. The call is open to all 19th Ward residents. To participate, please visit www.the19thward.com to register and look out for a phone call on the number you provide at 7:00pm on August 25th. Should you have any questions, please email mattoshea@the19thward.com.



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- 9/30 All About Eve (1950)
- 10/7 The Apartment (1960)
- 10/14 Patton (1970)
- 10/21 Ordinary People (1980)
- 10/28 Dances With Wolves (1990)
- 11/4 Gladiator (2000)
- 11/11 The King's Speech (2010)
- 11/18 Parasite (2020)
- 11/25 BAC Closed for Thanksgiving
- 12/2 The English Patient (1998)
- 12/9 The Hurt Locker (2009)

Those interested in dropping in to see specific movies, will be charged a \$10 fee per movie.



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Rep. Hurley Alerts Residents to IDES Fraud

As scammers continually work to defraud unemployment public assistance, State Rep. Fran Hurley is sharing tips to help residents recognize if they have been a victim of fraud through the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).

"As unemployment has skyrocketed in recent months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IDES has been working around the clock to help connect residents who have been laid off to the benefits they need," said Hurley. "However, in recent weeks, many residents across the state have received a debit card in the mail from IDES even though they did not file for unemployment benefits, which could mean they are a victim of fraud."

Hurley is alerting residents to potential fraud through IDES and is sharing the following tips to help residents recognize possible identity theft: You receive a debit card / unemployment insurance letter but haven't filed a claim;

- You're notified that a claim was filed in your name but you haven't been laid off;
- You attempt to file a claim online but one already exists;
- You receive communication from the IRS regarding unreported benefits;
- You receive notice of a state or federal tax offset.

If you suspect a claim has been filed using your information but you have not applied for unemployment benefits, call the IDES Benefit Payment Control Division at 800-814-0513. If you received a debit card, destroy it without activating it. After reporting the suspected fraud, Hurley is encouraging residents to regularly review their credit activity for other fraudulent activities.



State Rep. Fran Hurley

"Unfortunately, as some businesses have been hacked in recent years, personal information for some residents has been leaked, giving scammers an easy way to commit fraud," said Hurley. "If you received a debit card, but did not file for unemployment benefits, it is critical to act quickly and report it, as you could be a victim of identity theft."

Hurley is also sharing additional resources to assist residents that have been laid off and are in need of COVID-19 unemployment benefits. Please note, the day or time you apply will not impact the benefits you receive; however, because of high call volumes, you should contact IDES at the following times:

For last names beginning with A-M: File online on Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday. Call center filing can

be done Tuesday or Thursday from 7:30am - 6pm. For last names beginning with N-Z: File online Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Call center filing can be done Monday or Wednesday from 7:30am-6pm. Those that cannot file during the allotted time may file online on Saturdays. Call center filing can be done on Fridays from 7:30am-6pm.

Hurley is also highlighting relief grants for homeowners and renters. Homeowners may be eligible for grants of up to \$15,000 to help cover mortgage payments and renters may apply for up to \$5,000 in emergency rental assistance. To apply, visit idha.org. Business that have experienced losses or business interruption may also be eligible for state grants or loans. To apply, visit illinois.gov/dceo.

For the latest information and resources, visit coronavirus.illinois.gov. For more information, contact Hurley's constituent services office at (773) 445-8128 or RepFranHurley@gmail.com.

Rep. Slaughter Promotes Recovery Plan

State Representative Justin Slaughter is highlighting a new economic recovery plan that will provide \$25 million to businesses that suffered damages due to the civil unrest following the death of George Floyd.

"Although many of our businesses were ravaged during the civil unrest that occurred in response to the death of George Floyd, I know that we are resilient, and we will rebuild," said Slaughter. "I will continue to work closely with Governor Pritzker, the General Assembly and local elected officials to make sure that the businesses in our community get the resources they need."

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) recently announced the creation of the Rebuild Distressed Communities Program, which will provide support for businesses that sustained property damage during recent pro-



State Rep. Justin Slaughter

tests and demonstrations following the murder of George Floyd. The program will prioritize small businesses, minority and women-owned businesses, businesses that are uninsured or underinsured, businesses that have a high community impact such as grocery stores, and businesses that are located in historically underserved communities. For eligibility information and to ap-

ply, businesses are encouraged to visit dceo.illinois.gov.

"Our community has continued to persevere despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and I know that we will continue to become stronger," said Slaughter. "The only way that we will make it through these uncertain times is through working together and supporting each other, and I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that our community has the support it needs."

Cunningham Bill Brings Help to Police & Fire Pensions

Shortly after taking his seat in the Illinois Senate in 2013, Senator Bill Cunningham pushed legislation that required the city of Chicago to share revenue from any future casino with its financially troubled police and fire pension funds.

"No one really paid any attention to the proposal because the idea of a Chicago casino was purely hypothetical in 2013," said Cunningham, who worked with members of Chicago police and fire unions on the legislation. "But we knew that was the best time to put a marker down, before a fight began over how to spend the money. If the casino ever opened, we didn't want to see the new revenue going to newly created programs, not when the city owed billions of dollars to its pension funds."

At the time, the thought of Chicago ever getting legislative approval to open a casino seemed like a distant and remote possibility. That possibility became a reality this spring when Cunningham, serving as chief sponsor, helped push Senate Bill 516 through the General Assembly. The legislation made a number of changes to the



State Senator Bill Cunningham

state's gaming laws and enables Chicago to open its long-sought casino. When fully operational, the casino is expected to funnel more than \$200 million dollars a year to Chicago's police and fire pension funds.

As chief sponsor of SB 516, Cunningham was able to ensure the intent of his 2013 legislation remained in the law. The measure

passed both the Senate and House with comfortable, bipartisan majorities. As a result, the taxes collected by the city on all slot machines and table games in the new casino will go exclusively to Chicago's police and fire pensions.

"This massive new revenue source won't solve the pension funding crisis overnight," Cunningham said. "But it is a big step in the right direction. And best of all, the new casino dollars will reduce the pressure placed on Chicago property taxes, which until now has been the only source of revenue for the police and fire pension funds."

SB 516 was signed into law by Governor Pritzker this summer. Mayor Lightfoot is expected to announce the city's plans for the casino site and construction before the end of the year.

City Grange Opens Amid Pandemic

Opening a business in the middle of a pandemic may seem unusual but City Grange, located at the former Thamm's Auto building at 1818 W 99th, isn't an ordinary business.

The woman-owned, social-enterprise garden center is founded on the idea that the world would be a better place with more gardeners and their mission is to remove every barrier to their customers' growing success. Even if that means navigating a pandemic.

After opening May 9, City Grange has provided a safe shopping experience for customers through timed entry initially, and now through the standard practices (masks, social distancing, frequent sanitizing) recommended by the City of Chicago.

In addition to the garden center

(outside) and plant shop (inside), City Grange will be closed until September 2nd to finalize installation on a new café! "Much like how we source our plants from small, family growers and organic sources, we're doing the same for our cafe menu," says LaManda Joy, founder of City Grange. "Using locally grown produce and working with small businesses, our grab-and-go food and beverages will be delicious."

But don't grab and go right away - City Grange is setting up tables so you can bliss out in their beautiful plant yard while enjoying your meal. "We're all about community and our large outdoor area needs to be enjoyed as much as possible" says Joy.



And that's not all - with safety protocols in mind - City Grange is planning several fall events that are suitable for "your pod" (people you quarantine with) and families.

First up is a series of socially distanced "dinner and a movie" nights September 18, 25 and October 2. Groups of six will be seated at tables separated by distance (and plants) from the next table. Box dinners and BYOB-friendly 'signature sodas' will be available and a "real movie experience" will follow with full-on 16mm movies, complete with pre-movie cartoons, intermission and more (like popcorn). The movies are a surprise and evenings are for adults only. For everyone's safety, attendees

will be temperature-checked, assigned a specific arrival time and required to stay with their "pod" of family and friends with whom they are safely quarantining.

Also, on October 10th, Alderman Matt O'Shea is partnering with City Grange to offer a free pumpkin giveaway to the first 500 people to arrive. The same safety protocols will be in place - social distancing and masks required. Participants can decorate their pumpkin and post on social media through October 15 and prizes will be awarded to the pumpkins with the most likes.

For more information, sign up for the newsletter at www.CityGrange.com or Alderman Matt O'Shea's emails at www.matthewoshea.net.

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Mercy Circle Dedicated to Residents' Health & Spirit

Area's only faith-based senior living community draws on nursing expertise, prayer during COVID-19 pandemic

As director of nursing for Mercy Circle, Anita Ajayi, RN, is a hero of the COVID-19 pandemic, dedicating her expertise, compassion and faith to helping residents and colleagues navigate today's challenges.

Mercy Circle is the only faith-based community on Chicago's southwest side. According to Ajayi, that faith has been a tremendous help during these difficult times. "Faith brings hope and strength," she says. "The idea that God is listening and prayers will be answered keeps our residents and my colleagues going."

Explains Ajayi, "The pandemic has a psychological and physical effect on everyone, especially our residents. For months, they could not have visitors or go outside. Our staff members continually find new ways to lift their spirits and reassure them they are safe and protected. We are delighted to be reopening our campus for outdoor visits and other ways for residents to enjoy life."

The strength of a faith-based community helps the staff as well. "As a nurse, I find comfort that other people are praying for me," she says. "When I care for one of our residents who is a Sister of Mercy, she offers a blessing. It feels good to know our residents are looking

out for me, too." When Ajayi started in her position in May of 2019, the Sisters of Mercy conducted a service to anoint her and prayed for her success. That support set the tone for her in her new position as director of nursing.

Like all senior living communities, Mercy Circle must manage ever-changing circumstances caused by the virus, and establish new systems and procedures to comply with the guidelines provided by numerous health agencies. Thanks to the leadership of Ajayi and her dedicated team of nurses and CNAs, residents feel safe and know they are in good hands.

Since March, Ajayi and Mercy Circle's executive director Frances Lachowicz work with the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health to apply guidelines and develop education plans to keep residents and staff members healthy. For the first four months, not a single Mercy Circle resident tested positive for COVID-19.

In July that changed when the first resident received a positive test result and has since recovered. Fortunately, protocols and practices implemented by the entire team at Mercy Circle have contained the spread of the virus.

Ajayi brings a lifetime of experience to her role at Mercy Circle.



Anita Ajayi, RN, Director of Nursing at Mercy Circle, shares her faith and spirit with residents and colleagues.

She was born in Illinois, but her parents soon moved their family back to their homeland, Ibadan in Nigeria. "They wanted to be near their families as they established themselves," explains Ajayi. Soon after graduating from high school, she returned to the Midwest to ultimately earn her nursing degree at Purdue University in northwest Indiana.

After Ajayi received her first undergraduate degree in accounting, she worked in the field for a year but soon she realized she didn't enjoy what she was doing. "I feel like I am blessed with a natural instinct for nurturing," she explains. "I enjoy taking care of people. I also like to teach others and advocate for residents. Now, I get to do all these

things every day."

Ajayi supervises a total 66 registered nurses and CNAs. She helps ensure the quality of nursing care from participating in hiring and orientation to on the job training and infection control and prevention. She collaborates with other directors to form interdisciplinary teams that provide patient care. A Christian Pentecostal with a Catholic education, Ajayi says her faith is one of the reasons she took the position at Mercy Circle. "My spirit was drawn to it," she says. "Being a faith-based community changes the environment. It adds a calmness. I am carrying on the work of my faith everyday by serving our residents."



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Smith Village residents applaud community's leaders who keep them safe and informed

First community in Chicago to achieve 28 consecutive days without new occurrence of COVID-19

There is no playbook for living through a pandemic, but the leaders at Smith Village have risen to the occasion by devising numerous ways to safeguard residents and staff members. In mid-July, to the Chicago Department of Public Health informed Smith Village it is Chicago's first senior living community to achieve 28 consecutive days with no new incidences of COVID-19.

"We rely on ongoing testing to do our best to keep Smith Village virus-free," says Marti Jatis, executive director of Smith Village "We are committed to remaining vigilant about following our numerous safety and infection control protocols as we begin to provide more opportunities for residents to safely socialize."

Jatis and her team work diligently to follow the guidelines of the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health, the Centers for Disease and Prevention Control, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. While doing so, they strive to sustain a supportive and family like atmosphere.

"I am so proud of our staff members who have gone above

and beyond what is required. They create safe and thoughtful opportunities to engage our residents," states Jatis. "Whether it is a fitness class broadcast on our in-house TV channel or organizing a movie night mindful of social distancing, we make sure our residents have what they need to be safe and still enjoy these and other activities."

Smith Village residents applaud the leadership team's dedication to remaining free of COVID-19 while reintroducing more ways to get together. "I think I am much safer here at Smith Village than I would have been living alone in my house. I would have been tempted to go out and shop and see people," says Leslie Rokaitis, who has been an independent living resident for the last two years. "Two of my daughters recently visited me outdoors here. We kept our social distance and still have a great time. I plan to participate soon in a cornhole bags game outdoors on campus," she explains.

"I really appreciate how our community was very upfront about what is happening. We receive updates every day with written mes-

sage and on our community's TV channel. The staff continues to guide us on taking precautions, so we are safe and virus-free," continues Rokaitis.

Fellow-resident Merle Todd, who celebrates her first-year anniversary at Smith Village in August, adds, "I am so happy to see we can start to resume some activities in small groups as long as we wear our masks. My two sons came to visit over the weekend. It felt good to see each other at a social distance on the patio," says Todd.

"It is very comforting to know that I don't have to be concerned about all of the challenges that accompany the maintenance of a home and living alone. Smith Village offers opportunities for everything that I need and does it in a spirit of care, the pursuit of excellence and safety," she says.

"While there isn't a playbook for how to survive during a pandemic, with good leadership we can get through just about anything," observes Todd. "Smith Village is committed to our family of residents and their extended families by providing quality care and a good way of life during a national health crisis and when times are good."



Smith Village residents Merle Todd (front) and Leslie Rokaitis observe social distancing while practicing for an outdoor cornhole game on their campus.

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Halfway to Parade Day Golf Outing

The South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade will hold its annual golf outing this fall with added public safety measures in place. The "Halfway to Parade Day" golf outing will be held on Monday, September 21 at Ridge Country Club to support the 2021 South Side Irish Parade.

"This year's golf outing will be smaller than years past as we value the safety of our communities above all else," said Don Larisey, South Side Irish Parade Committee Member. "We will abide by all State of Illinois Phase 4 restrictions while continuing to monitor the situation and make changes as necessary. The golf outing is crucial in helping us raise funds for the South Side Irish Parade, a longstanding tradition we hope will return to Western Avenue in March of 2021."

To comply with social distancing guidelines, this year's "Halfway to Parade Day" celebration will offer a limited number of golfers tee times at either 8:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Golfers will be required to wear masks during check-in and whenever social distancing is not possible. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available to all golfers, and the post-golf lunch will follow for registered golfers. Golf outing tickets include golf, beverages, and lunch for \$200 per person.

Due to the limited availability of this year's golf outing and the absence of a post-event celebration, sponsorship is especially vital to raising the necessary funds to operate the 2021 South Side Irish Parade. The 2020 parade would have been the South Side's 42nd St. Patrick's Day Parade celebrating family, community and Irish heritage.

"We greatly appreciate the neighborhood and business support of the Parade and look forward to being able to celebrate our Irish heritage, faith and families," shares Tim McSweeney, Co-Chair of the South Side Irish Parade.

To purchase tickets and for more information on the golf outing and how to support the parade, visit southsideirishparade.org and the parade's Facebook page. "Halfway to Parade Day" sponsorship opportunities are now available by contacting Don Larisey at (773) 960-7312.

Proceeds from the "Halfway to Parade Day" golf outing will offset costs for operating the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade set to step off at noon on Sunday, March 14, 2021. If the golf outing event is canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions, refunds or participation roll-over to 2021 will be allowed.

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