

CPS Invests \$30 Million in Local Early Childhood Expansion

Alderman Matt O'Shea and Chicago Public Schools recently announced major investments in early childhood education in the 19th Ward. Through this capital investment, the Barbara Vick Early Childhood & Family Center will be expanded at its current location at 2554 W. 113th St.; a satellite location will also be created at 9901 S. Western Ave. This new satellite location will be the third Barbara Vick facility; Barbara Vick Village Early Childhood & Family Center operates at 3001 W. 59th St. In addition to the major expansion of Barbara Vick, a new annex will be constructed at Clissold Elementary School specifically for early childhood education. In total, these projects represent a nearly \$30 million dollar investment in early childhood education.

From language development to overall health, research consistently finds what happens in a child's earliest years is most important for development, growth and long term well-being. Allocation of resources to early childhood programs is critical. Expansion at Barbara Vick is especially impactful because it offers a unique blended classroom environment providing services to young children with developmental disabilities and their typically developing peers.

Barbara Vick Early Childhood Center:

CPS will construct a new four classroom addition that will also include a new multi-purpose room, two offices, a faculty work room, two storage rooms and updates to the existing main school building. The school will also receive a new parking lot with 47 parking spaces, landscaping improvements, and additional storm water management. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin this fall and take approximately one year. The budget for this project is approximately \$10 million with a fall 2023 projected opening date.

New Satellite Location – Barbara Vick Early Childhood Center:

In addition to the major investments at the original Barbara Vick campus, CPS has purchased the building at 9901 S. Western Ave. to renovate into a satellite facility for Barbara Vick. This new facility will include 6 additional early childhood classrooms with office space in the basement and on the second floor. The budget for this project is \$11.65 million with a fall 2023 projected opening date.



Clissold Elementary School:

CPS will construct a new, stand-alone six classroom annex that will support expanded pre-k and early childhood opportunities for local students. In addition to the annex, Clissold will receive a new play lot at the northwest corner of the campus. The existing four classroom modular will also be fully renovated

as well as the kitchen in the main building. The main building will also receive a new lunchroom. The existing parking lot will be enlarged and include more landscaping and storm water management elements. This project is expected to start in late 2022. The total project budget is estimated at \$8 million.

Throw Back Thursdays Back this Summer

Please join the Beverly Area Planning Association & Alderman Matt O'Shea for activities, fun and food perfect for young families at Throw Back Thursdays this June! Each week will highlight a different era through music and instructor lead activities. Weather permitting, Throw Back Thursdays will take place on June 2nd, 9th, and 23rd from 5:30-7:00pm and are free.

Families are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets, and bug spray. Food and beverages will be

available for purchase from local food trucks.

On Thursday, June 2nd meet at Maggie Cosme Park (9201 S. Longwood Dr.) as we celebrate the 1960's. Kids are encouraged to decorate their bikes, wagons or strollers with your favorite bright colors, flowers or peace signs – the more colorful the better! Shannon Ward will provide live music from the 1960's and a fun filled high energy instructor led activity for the kids!

On Thursday, June 9th meet at McKiernan Park (10714 S. Sawyer Ave.) to celebrate the 1970's. Kids are encouraged to decorate bikes, wagons or strollers with your best disco look. Enjoy the sounds of the 1970's with a disco freeze dance game lead by F45 Training.

On Thursday, June 23rd meet at Barnard Park (10431 S. Longwood Dr.) for a 1980's themed night of fun. Decorate your bike, wagon or

stroller in honor of the 1985 Super Bowl Champion Chicago Bears. Don't forget your best Bears apparel to participate in our instructor lead Super Bowl Shuffle game.

Throw Back Thursdays are sponsored by Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, State Rep. Fran Hurley, the Beverly Area Planning Association and the Chicago Park District.



Shannon Ward, Matt O'Shea and Morgan Martin enjoy last year's Throw Back Thursdays.

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1. Junior Savers Account. At account opening, child(ren) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and present a valid Social Security number(s). **2. Fees.** A maintenance fee of \$5.00 will be imposed every calendar month if the balance in the account falls below \$200.00 any day of the calendar month once the Junior Saver has reached the age of 22. Transaction limitations will apply. Fees may reduce earnings. **A listing of Wintrust Financial Corporation locations can be found here:** wintrust.com/locations.

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Improvements Coming to Local Parks

Alderman Matt O'Shea and the Chicago Park District recently announced improvements to several 19th Ward Parks. Plans include new lighting for night games at two baseball diamonds and replacement of tennis courts at Beverly Park, installation of a new batting cage at Kennedy Park, and replacement of tennis courts at Mount Greenwood Park. More detailed information on budget and schedule for each improvement can be found below.

Mount Greenwood Park: The four tennis courts at Mount Greenwood Park will be resurfaced and re-striped. This project has a \$75,000 budget and is expected to be completed in Fall of 2022.

Beverly Park: New field lighting will be installed at baseball diamonds two and three to allow for night games. This project has a budget of \$200,000 and is currently scheduled for completion in Fall 2022.

The four tennis courts at Beverly Park will also be completely renovated, resurfaced and striped. This project also has a budget of \$200,000 and is scheduled for completion in Fall 2022.

Kennedy Park: A new baseball and softball practice batting tunnel will be installed at Kennedy Park. The tunnel will include fencing, netting and new ground surfacing. This project has a budget of \$40,000 and will be completed in Fall of 2022.

CUB Hosts Navigating Home Solar Options and Cable & Robocall Virtual Presentations

Alderman Matt O'Shea and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) will host two virtual presentations on Tuesday, June 7th from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, and Thursday, June 9th from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. There is no cost for these webinars. To reserve your spot today, visit the19thward.com.

Navigating Solar Options Webinar: Tuesday, June 7th @ 1 pm

During the home solar options presentation, learn more about the benefits of Solar for All and community solar, how to access them, and consumer tips to know before diving in!

Understanding Cable Options & Reducing Robocalls Webinar:

Thursday, June 9th @ 6 pm

During the cable and 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.

For money-saving advice and consumer tips, visit www.citizensutilityboard.org.



City Clerk Offers Senior Hours

The Chicago City Clerk recently announced their South Side Satellite location at 5672 S. Archer Ave. will be offering Senior Citizen hours every Tuesday morning from 8:00am-9:00am starting Tuesday, May 3rd through Tuesday, July 26th. During these times, the Clerk's office will provide service exclusively to residents age 65 or older. This is a great way to obtain your City Vehicle Sticker or conduct any other business you may have with the City Clerk's Office.



SCHOOL & SPORTS PHYSICALS

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O'Shea Ordinance Offering a Death Benefit to Spouses of First Responders Who Die by Suicide

Alderman Matt O'Shea proposed an ordinance at the April City Council meeting that would establish a death benefit for the surviving spouse and family of Chicago first responders that die by suicide. The ordinance was co-sponsored by all 50 Chicago Alderman.

If passed, the ordinance would provide surviving spouses one year of salary, as well as a one-time financial benefit that ranges from \$20,000 - \$40,000 depending on the size of the family. These benefits mirror what the City currently provides to the surviving spouses of first responders who die in the line of duty. The ordinance would apply to families of all active Chicago Police Officers, Firefighters, and

Paramedics, and would be retroactive to January 1, 2018.

First responders are at a much higher risk of experiencing both Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of frequent exposure to traumatic events. In 2021, there were 632 law enforcement deaths in the United States; nearly 25% of those deaths occurred as a result of self-inflicted injuries. Suicide was the second leading cause of death among law enforcement officers behind only COVID last year. If you remove COVID related deaths, suicide would cause 49% of law enforcement deaths last year.

"First responders experience trauma on a daily basis," said Ald.

O'Shea. "They regularly encounter violence, death, tragedy and loss and are forced to carry those experiences with them in their daily lives. As a direct result of their work, many first responders suffer from ASD, PTSD, depression and other mental health issues. Too often, those issues contribute to tragic acts of suicide. Given that, I believe that the government should provide support to first responder families who lose a loved one to suicide."

The ordinance was supported by Anastasia "Stacy" Escamilla and Julie Trogia. Their husbands, Chicago Police Officers Paul Escamilla and Jeffrey Trogia, together gave more than 30 years of dedicated

service to our city before they took their own lives in 2019 and 2021, respectively. They are each survived by three young children, in addition to their spouses.

"I am grateful to Ald. O'Shea and his colleagues for their efforts to close the gap between officer deaths in the line of duty and suicide. For me and our children, there is no difference," said Julie Trogia. "I hope that bringing attention to first responder suicides will benefit those families, who like us, face daily financial and emotional hardships as we struggle with our grief and loss."

A hearing before the Committee on Finance is expected in June.

ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

TUES, MAY 24 • 7 - 8 P.M.

With Special Guests: Dr. Jennifer Seo, Chicago Department of Public Health and Commander Sean Joyce, Chicago Police Department, 22nd District

To register, please visit www.the19thward.com

Co-Sponsored by:

Bill Cunningham
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19TH WARD PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP OFF & DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, June 11th

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

CrossWinds Church

10835 S. Pulaski Rd.

This event is free, but is open to 19th Ward residents only.



Documents are shredded onsite.

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



Turn in your unused or expired household prescription medication for safe disposal.

Medications should be in original container or 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

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AMONG REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES IN THE MIDWEST
U.S. News & World Report (2022)



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THE BEST IN YOU

Special Education Art & Music Therapy Pilot Program Offered at Two Area Schools

Special Olympics Chicago/Special Children's Charities (SOC/SCC) has launched a pilot art and music therapy program for diverse learners at four Chicago Public Schools, including Mount Greenwood Elementary and Morgan Park High School in the 19th Ward. The art and music therapy program, which launched in February, is being fully funded by the Special Olympics Chicago/Special Children's Charities program.

Art and music therapy services are presented in partnership with the Institute for Therapy Through the Arts, which is providing a weekly, in-person group art or music therapy session for students in special education cluster programs. The therapeutic artmaking and music programs have been adapted to meet the individualized needs of students at various stages of development. The creative arts therapies provide a platform for self-expression and invite non-verbal individuals to communicate through a creative medium.

Through these sessions, students are given opportunities to play instruments, or use clay or other artistic mediums to express emotions and stimulate new behaviors, which can then be trans-

ferred into everyday life. Students have the opportunity to explore their creativity, better express their emotions, and develop effective tools to communicate and socialize with their peers. Cluster program teachers report that these therapies have had a calming effect and help students to center themselves throughout the day.

The concept for an art and music therapy program was presented to the SOC/SCC Board of Directors by fellow Board Member, Matt O'Shea, after he approached schools within his community as to what could be done to assist special needs students who were suffering as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

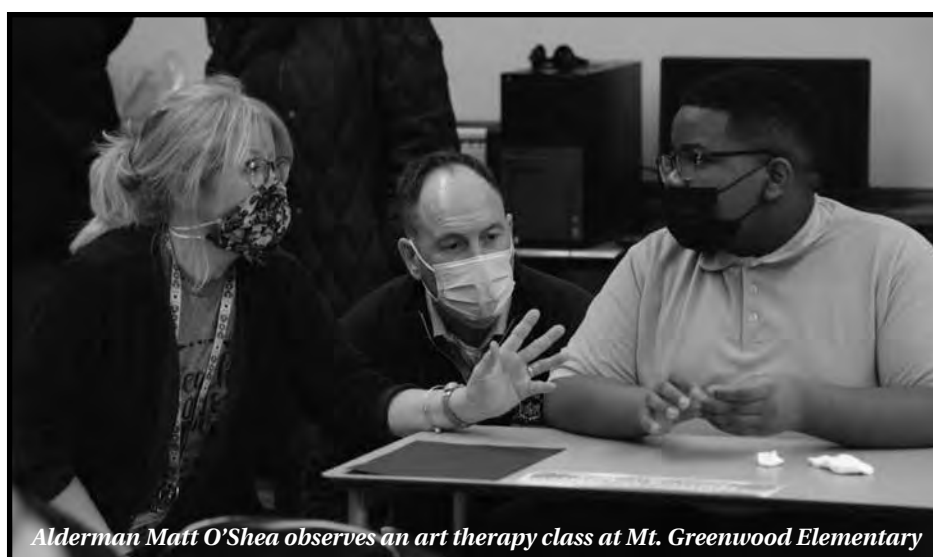
"Over the last two years, everyone has struggled to maintain connections with people, but particularly those within the special needs community," said Matt O'Shea, Vice-President of the SOC/SCC Board of Directors. "Through programs like art and music therapy, we can address the educational, social and mental health needs of these students. I would like to thank Principal Kate Reidy of Mt. Greenwood Elementary for bringing this idea to SOC/SCC. I hope that we can continue to expand

this important program, and help our diverse learner students recover some of the experiences they lost over the past few years."

SOC/SCC provides year-round programming and events to thousands of athletes within the city who have intellectual disabilities, and participate in Special Olympics programs through the Chicago Park District and Chicago Public Schools. In addition to sports, SOC/SCC also funds cultural institution partnerships, arts programming, an athlete-produced cable access television show, cooking nights, dance parties, special events, field trips, and more.

Most recently, SOC/SCC an-

nounced the funding of an all-new partnership with Anixter Center and City Colleges of Chicago called "After 22". This program provides a college experience for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Participants have the opportunity to attend college courses at Daley College that help them advance their education and develop job skills. Through the program, each student has access to staff support to help them identify additional opportunities outside the classroom based on their interests. Ultimately, students will be placed in internships, jobs, or other programs centered on sports or recreation.



Alderman Matt O'Shea observes an art therapy class at Mt. Greenwood Elementary

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More info: mpbhba.org

**Rain date: Sun., May 29*

**STATE REPRESENTATIVES
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PRESENT:**

ESTATE PLANNING LUNCHEON

**June 13th
12PM-1:30PM
La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant
3333 W. 111th Street**

Attorney at Law Kathleen Farrell Duhig will give a one hour presentation on the basics of estate planning including wills, trusts, and transfer of property. Lunch and Refreshments will be provided.
Registration for this event is required and spots are limited.
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O'Shea Co-Sponsors Ethics Reform Package

Alderman Matt O'Shea joined Alderman Michele Smith and the Chicago Board of Ethics in co-sponsoring a legislative package that will significantly strengthen Chicago's ethics laws. The package, authored by Alderman Smith, targets four key areas of ethics reform: Ethics Violation Fines, Conflicts of Interest, City Council Privilege, and Campaign Finance.

Under this proposal, existing fines for substantive ethics violations would be increased fourfold with a new range of between \$1,000 and \$20,000 per violation. This increase will send a strong message that the City is serious about reform and that those who would disregard regulations will be held accountable.

The package also includes provisions that strengthen existing laws around conflicts of interest in nepotism. For example, under the current ethics laws, City employees and Elected Officials are barred from managing contracts if they have a spouse or relative is employed by the vendor. Under the new proposal, employees and elected officials would be prohibited from involvement with any administrative or legislative action

including any issues related to permitting, licensing, or city inspections.

City Council members are currently required to recuse themselves from votes where a conflict of interest may exist. However, an Alderman choosing to recuse him or herself from voting, is still permitted to be present for, and participate in debate on the matter. Under this proposal, any elected official, including



the Mayor, City Clerk, or Treasurer, who has a conflict of interest on a particular item would be required not only to recuse themselves from any formal action, but also physically leave the room for any discussion or debate.


Finally, the package expands existing campaign contribution limits. Current provisions are imposed on vendors doing work for the City of Chicago. Under this proposal, that cap would extend not only to vendors doing work for the City, but also any sister agencies like the Chicago Park District, Board of Education etc. In addition, is also imposes this cap on subcontractors working for the primary vendor, closing a major loophole.

Election Day is Tuesday, June 28th

Reminder! Tuesday, June 28th is primary election day in Illinois. Offices on the ballot include U.S. Senator, all Illinois Statewide Officers, all Representatives in Congress, various State Senators and State Representatives, Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Commissioners to the Cook County Board and Board of Tax Review, and several County-

wide Offices include Board President, County Clerk, Sheriff, Treasurer, and Assessor. There will also be several judicial positions on the ballot.

If you would like to locate your polling place, or sign up to vote by mail, please visit chicagoelections.com. There you can also find information about serving as a judge of election.



MATT O'SHEA
19TH WARD ALDERMAN

Connecting Communities to City Services!

We're partnering with the City Clerk's Office, City departments and sister agencies and community organizations to bring City Hall's services to you.

Location	Address	Date	Time
Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences	3857 W. 111th St.	Saturday, June 4	10:00 AM-1:00 PM

To learn more about the services that will be available and other participating partners, visit www.chicityclerk.com



SUMMER CAMPS

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In memory of Cameron Fahey

Supporting the Cameron Miller Fahey Memorial Scholarship Foundation



Cameron Fahey spent his days in the halls of St. Barnabas and then Brother Rice High School. We continue to cherish his love of family, friends, loud and irreverent music and professional wrestling, as well as the compassion and love that he showed to those he knew and those he did not. Lymphoma took Cameron from the world in 2014 at age 17. During his final days, Cameron received many blood transfusions. By donating blood, you are helping to treat children throughout Chicagoland who, like Cameron, are in need of blood in order to continue their fight.

About the Foundation

The Cameron Miller Fahey Memorial Scholarship Foundation honors Cameron's life and concern. Since its inception, it has awarded over \$80,000 in college scholarships to deserving Brother Rice seniors who exemplify Cameron's commitment to his fellow man and creativity in all forms. The Cameron Miller Fahey Memorial Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization. For more information, visit camscrusaders.org or call Brian Fahey at 312-315-8520.



SATURDAY, JULY 23

10 AM - 3 PM

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Matt O'SHEA
19TH WARD ALDERMAN



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with Monica Bright



**SUNDAY
JUNE 5
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Chicago Park District Greenspace, 116th & Oakley

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Tech Tuesdays Return to Smith Village

Free, 3-week series to share tips and techniques so seniors can master their smart- phones, Tuesday mornings starting June 7

Tech Tuesdays, a free, three-part series sponsored by 19th Ward Alderman Matt O’Shea, the Beverly Area Planning Association and Smith Village, will help seniors learn more about how to use a variety of features for smartphones and tablets. Tech Tuesday aims to help adults use more of the features of their digital devices.

Sessions open to all residents of the 19th Ward will be held Tuesdays, June 7, 14 and 21, from 10:30 until 11:45am at Smith Village, 2320 W 113th Place. While the classes are free, people are asked to make reservations for each of the three one-hour classes by calling the 19th Ward office at 773-238-8766 or registering online at the19thward.com. Please be sure to indicate the kind of digital device you use.

“Smartphones and tablets can

be incredibly helpful, yet often even experienced users only master a few features instead of leveraging the power of what we hold in our hands,” says 19th Ward Alderman Matt O’Shea. “These classes can help participants use their devices more effectively.”

With the goal of providing specific instructions and hands-on assistance, one classroom will be set up for participants using Apple

products including iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch and a second room for Android users including Nokia, Motorola, Samsung and Google devices.

Those attending the classes will learn how to use FaceTime, WhatsApp and Zoom, as well as how to set up email and text groups to stay in touch with friends and family. Additionally, classes will explore safety and security concerns about

how to keep information private and avoid scams. Finally, seniors will learn how to find and install applications, or apps, including some of the most popular and useful apps for older adults.

All participants must bring their own devices so they can immediately apply what they’re learning to their own smartphones and tablets. “Smart- phones and tablets are woven into everyday life,” says Smith Village executive director Marti Jatis. “We are pleased to host this series because we know first-hand how important it is for older adults to stay in touch and to expand their understanding of the devices that most already have.”

Plan to arrive as early as 10am to visit with neighbors and to enjoy Smith Village’s hospitality.



Save Money with a Water Meter Today

The City of Chicago is expected to resume the installation of Water Meters this Summer. Water meters are a great way to conserve water and save money. If your home does not have a water meter, your water bill is based on a formula tied to the size of your property rather than your actual water consump-


tion. By signing up for a meter you will be billed only for the water you use.

On average, home owners who install water meters see a 25% reduction in water bills. The water meter will also allow you to reduce your water bill by reducing your water usage. Most importantly,

any home that installs a water meter receives a guarantee that regardless of water consumption, your bill will not be higher than it was without a meter for at least seven years!

There are currently 11,000 Chicagoans on a waiting list for water meters. If you have already re-

quested a water meter, you don’t need to do anything; when installations resume, the City will begin working through the waiting list as quickly as possible. If you would like to join the waiting list, you can do so at www.metersave.org.



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Police Officer Written Examination in Person Exam Schedule

May 19-21

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Date	Doors Open	Doors Close
May 19	8:00 AM	8:30 AM
May 19	1:30 PM	2:00 PM
May 20	8:00 AM	8:30 AM
May 20	1:30 PM	2:00 PM

Date:	Doors Open	Doors Close
May 19	8:00 AM	8:30 AM
May 19	1:30 PM	2:00 PM
May 20	8:00 AM	8:30 AM
May 20	1:30 PM	2:00 PM
May 21	8:00 AM	8:30 AM
May 21	1:30 Pm	2:00 PM



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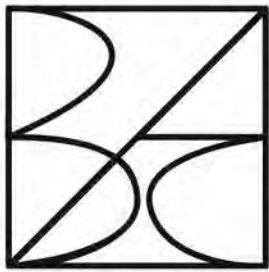
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Saturday, July 23 2PM	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
Saturday, July 23 5PM	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
Saturday, July 23 8PM	Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince
Sunday, July 24 2PM	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Pt. 1
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Hurley Passes Legislation on Suicide Prevention

To help address the burgeoning mental health crisis across Illinois, state Rep. Fran Hurley passed a bill to create a new suicide prevention hotline. Hurley carried Senate Bill 2945 in the Illinois House of Representatives, which creates a statewide 9-8-8 trust fund to support the successful launch and operation of this vital service.

“The mental health care system is complicated and hard to navigate, especially for people in crisis. The 9-8-8 hotline provides an easy way for people to access the life-saving care they need,” said Hurley. “Funding the 9-8-8 is an integral first step in creating a comprehensive mental health crisis system in Illinois, and I look forward to further collaborating with stakeholders to make sure these essential services are funded and accessible.”

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in Illinois, resulting in more than 1,000 deaths each year. For young people ages 15 to 34 years old, suicide is the third leading cause of death in the state. The goal of the 9-8-8 hotline is to de-escalate mental health emergencies and ensure those who are experiencing a mental health crisis get the services and

care they need. The Statewide 9-8-8 Trust Fund created by Senate Bill 2945 will establish the 9-8-8 hotline so the service can provide adequate intervention and care across the state.

“Suicide is preventable, but many people do not seek the care they need because of the stigma and feelings of shame surrounding mental health. By funding the 9-8-8 hotline, we’re furthering the conversation around mental health and suicide prevention which has the potential to save lives,” Hurley said. “It is always okay to ask for help, and the 9-8-8 hotline will be an easy way for people to do so. I am incredibly proud of the General Assembly for voting to fund this vital service, and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support. In October of 1976, my 18 year old brother Bob committed suicide. If this number was available back then, would he still be around today? I would like to think yes.”

The 9-8-8 hotline will roll out in July 2022, according to the Illinois Department of Human Services. Senate Bill 2945 passed with unanimous support out of the House of Representatives, during the 2022 spring session of the 102nd General Assembly.

Middle Class Families to Receive Tax Relief

A typical family of four in Illinois is set to receive approximately \$600 in direct tax rebates thanks to the Fiscal Year 2023 budget just passed by the General Assembly, according to State Senator Bill Cunningham.

“Not only were we able to pass a balanced budget, but we had a surplus in revenue, which enabled us to return money to the hard working taxpayers who generated the funds in the first place,” Cunningham said. “Given the new inflation-related financial burdens we are facing, this tax relief couldn’t come at a better time.”

In total, the state will provide more than \$1.8 billion in direct refunds to working families. One of the largest breaks will go to those who pay property taxes. Homeowners who earn up to \$250,000 individually, and joint-filers earning up to \$500,000, are eligible for property tax rebates up to \$300 per household.

Income tax rebates will also be provided. Individual tax filers will receive a \$50 rebate and joint-filers will receive \$100. Additionally, families will receive \$100 for each dependent (up to a maximum of 3 children.) As such, an average family of four in the 19th Ward will receive a total of \$600 in rebates. The payments will be sent by check to each household in late-Summer/early-Fall.

But the property and income tax breaks aren’t the only tax relief Illinois residents are due to receive thanks to





the new state budget. The state sales tax on groceries will be suspended for a year, saving consumers a total of \$400 million.

To provide relief from record high gas prices, the state’s motor fuel tax will be suspended for six months, saving consumers \$70 million. And a temporary suspension of sales taxes on school supplies will be enacted in August to help families doing back-to-school shopping, saving consumers \$50 million. Additionally, teachers will be given help to buy supplies for their classroom through a tax credit of up to \$500.

Cunningham, who is one of the state senate’s lead budget negotiators, said this year’s budget is a break from the bad habits of previous General Assemblies.

“In the past, when the state collected surplus tax revenue because of a strong economy, those dollars were often spent on new government programs. Not this year,” Cunningham said. “We used surplus dollars to pay-off old bills, reduce pension debt, and create a ‘rainy day fund’ for future fiscal emergencies. And we took what was left and returned it to the taxpayers.”

Shortly after the budget passed, Moody’s, the nation’s leading credit rating agency, boosted Illinois’ rating for the third time in the last 10 months, citing the state’s fiscally responsible practices.




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Conjure Up Some Fun on Wizarding Weekend July 21-24

Something wonderful is coming to Chicago's Beverly/Morgan Park neighborhood this summer, and you won't want to miss a magical moment of the fun!

The Beverly/Morgan Park Wizarding Weekend will be held Thurs., July 21 through Sun., July 24, featuring inspired collaborations among the community's businesses, restaurants, and institutions who are conjuring up events, classes, entertainment, and treats inspired by some of the world's favorite wizarding novels.

With the Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA), 19th Ward Office, Beverly Arts Center, Morgan Park Academy, Beverly Bank & Trust, Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association and 95th Street Business Association are taking the lead on planning. More than a dozen neighborhood small businesses and individuals with amazing abilities are putting the abracadabra into developing the all-ages entertainment, specialty shopping, family dining and feasting, and all-ages activities. Costumed characters, strolling magicians, and spirited sprites will all be part of the fantastical event.

Here's an idea of what Beverly/Morgan Park Wizarding Weekend planners have up the sleeves of their wizard's robes for the summer event:

The fun will begin in May

with the first of three trivia nights, hosted by Cork & Kerry (10614 S. Western Ave.) and culminating in a magical trivia play-off in July. Start reading (or rereading!) the books now so you're up to the challenge of every "trivial" detail!

Beverly Branch Library (1962 W. 95th St.) will host reading activities based on the books about everybody's favorite boy wizard and a little hocus pocus in creative crafts for all ages. The Bookies independent bookstore (10324 S. Western, Chicago) is also plotting reading adventures.

Leading up to the Beverly/Morgan Park Wizarding Weekend, the Beverly Arts Center (BAC) Teen Stage presents the magical play "Puffs," Tues., July 19 and Wed., July 20, 7:30 p.m., at the BAC (2407 W. 111th St.). It's the story of the Puffs, who just happened to be there when a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. "Puffs" is a tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for children ages 12 and younger at thebeverlyartscenter.com.

As part of the Wizarding Weekend, the BAC will present a Magical Movie Marathon, showing all eight of the Harry Potter films, Thurs., July 21 through Sun., July

24. Patrons can purchase a pass for all eight films and receive special commemorative swag or buy tickets to individual screenings. The movie schedule and ticket information are available now at thebeverlyartscenter.com.

Local restaurants and shops are hosting some bewitching events.

Open Outcry Brewing Co. (10934 S. Western Ave.) will kick off the weekend festivities with a halfway to Christmas Great Hall feast on Thursday evening (July 21) to coincide with the BAC's movie screenings.

The Open Outcry house elves will prepare a delicious menu that's sure to lure fantastic beasts into the magical world of flavors and potions. Wizard and witches, get your wands and tastebuds ready for an otherworldly experience! Horse Thief Hollow Brewpub (10426 S. Western) will serve up a spellbinding brunch with specialty brews on Sunday (July 24). These two special menu sit-down meals will be by reservation and ticketed.

The full-fledged festival begins at Saturday morning (July 23) at 10 a.m. and continues through Sunday evening (July 24) – bring your camera! There will be plenty of Instagram-able moments to capture! The schedule of events includes entertaining classes in potion-

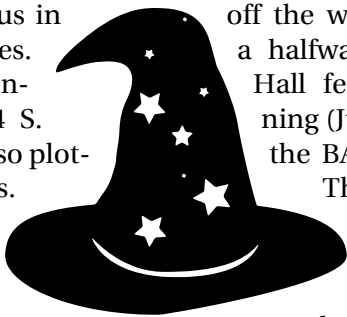
making, herbology, and divination including magical classes at Chicago's only castle, the Givins Beverly Castle (10244 S. Longwood Dr.); Quidditch games with the Loyola University Chicago team at Morgan Park Academy (2153 W. 111th St.); a horcrux scavenger hunt; otherworldly treats from Sweet Freaks Chocolates (9927 S. Wood St.); and all manner of illusions and alchemy throughout the community.

On Saturday night, the grown-ups are invited for music and potent beverages at Barney Callaghan's Pub (10618 S. Western Ave.).

Check-in for Wizarding Weekend opens at 10 a.m., Sat., July 23 at Morgan Park Academy, Alumni Hall (2153 W. 111th St.), where people will purchase their admission maps, and be sorted according to their school colors.

Watch for more exciting details as the ideas appear! Visit www.bapa.org or call 773-233-3100 for more information.

The Wizarding Weekend is co-sponsored by Beverly Area Planning Association, 19th Ward Office, Beverly Arts Center, Morgan Park Academy, Beverly Bank & Trust, Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association and 95th Street Business Association and a host of businesses and institutions. Proceeds will benefit neighborhood beautification efforts.





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Mercy Circle to host murder mystery dinner

The roaring twenties come to life on Chicago's southwest side as Mercy Circle hosts an evening of dinner and mystery, Saturday, June 4, in the community's Illinois Room at 3659 W. 99th Street in Chicago.

Produced by Murder Mystery Company, the evening begins with actors mixing with the guests during the cocktail hour from 6 until 7pm when they set the stage by providing clues for guests to solve a mystery. As guests enjoy hors d'oeuvres, they also can purchase raffle tickets and compete for silent auction prizes.

The performance, titled "Death of a Gangster," is set in a speakeasy during the Jazz Age. The theater department at Mother McAuley High School loaned costumes so the staff and servers can be a part of the action and 115 Bourbon Street lent props to set the scene, according to Mary Bannon, major gifts officer for Mercy Circle and organizer for this fundraiser.

Tickets are on sale now for \$60 in advance by calling 773-253-3600 or emailing mbannon@mercycircle.org. Those purchasing tickets for six or more people save \$5 for each ticket. All proceeds will fund a new communication system including large TV screens displaying residents' cal-

endars of upcoming events, daily menus and important messages that will be installed throughout the building to.

The performance begins during the first course of the dinner, breaks for guests to enjoy the entrée and returns to wrap up during dessert. Guests will be introduced to the characters and story and will need to use clues to solve the mystery. Additional clues can be purchased to support the fundraiser and give guests an edge in solving the case.

"We are delighted to invite our neighbors and friends into our community for this event," says Bannon. "Because keeping residents safe during the COVID-19 pandemic limited our ability to welcome guests, we thought planning an evening to get together to solve a mystery would help us celebrate a new chapter."

Mercy Circle staffers Sandy Urbaniak, Jean Larkin, Katie McKirdie and Sandi Zoller have helped Bannon organize this fun benefit event.

About Mercy Circle

Mercy Circle is a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community with a no-entrance-fee policy. Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, it is the only faith-based retirement com-

munity on Chicago's southwest side. Mercy Circle offers spacious residences at all levels of care, along with thoughtful amenities, life enrichment programs and social opportunities for independent and assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents as well as short-term stay rehab patients.

For more information or to schedule a private appointment, please call 773-253-3600 or visit MercyCircle.org.

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Jun 27 | Return 2 Soul
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Jul 11 | McGinnis Bros
Classic Rock and Originals

Jul 18 | The Clean Plate Club
Old School R&B

Jul 25 | The Brazel Band
Classic Pop

Aug 1 | Tautologic
Funk/New Age

Aug 8 | Character Fleadh
Celtic

Aug 15 | Amber and Patsy
Broadway/Patsy Cline

Aug 22 | Feel Good Band
Yacht Rock

Aug 29 | Caliente Old School
Old School Latin R&B




Sept 5 | Holden & Co.
Jazz

Sept 12 | Larkin Bros
Celtic Rat Pack

Sept 19 | Ginger Road
Classic Country

Sept 26 | Steve Haberichter
Bluegrass

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MT. GREENWOOD Community Food Drive *benefitting Pat's Pantry*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022

10:00am - 12:00pm

Mt. Greenwood Community Church

3509 W. 111th Street, Chicago

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We are collecting non-perishable and toiletry items.



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- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Canned Stew
- Canned Tomatoes
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Vegetables
- Cooking Oil
- Jelly/Jam
- Nuts
- Pasta/Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- Rice
- Bandages
- Deodorant
- Feminine Products
- Kleenex
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Grocery Gift Cards

Monetary donations also appreciated. Checks can be made payable to Pat's Pantry.

Pat's Pantry offers food pick up opportunities **Wednesday's from 3:00-6:00pm.**

For more information, or to volunteers, please contact Kathy Cavalonne Turney at patspantrymtgcc@gmail.com.

The Mt. Greenwood Community Food Drive is sponsored by:

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www.MtGreenwoodFoodPantry.wordpress.com