

19th WARD Quarterly

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

FEBRUARY 2023



Vest-a-Thon FUNDRAISER

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 18, 2023
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.**

**Tune into WGN Radio 720 AM
or WGNRadio.com**

to participate in this great event!

If you are interested in volunteering
or sponsoring, please contact
mattoshea@the19thward.com.

To donate, please visit www.cpdvest.com

The 19th Ward is partnering with **WGN Radio Home Sweet Home Chicago with David Hochberg** for this fundraiser supporting the **Chicago Police Memorial Foundation** and promote **Alderman Matt O'Shea's Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast**.

Tune into AM Radio 720 to hear stories from Chicago Police Officers whose lives have been saved by bulletproof vests and learn more about the increased danger and difficult work they do.

Listeners who call in with donations will have the opportunity to win great prizes including skybox experiences for Chicago sports teams, sports memorabilia and much more!



SPONSORS:



ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S GET BEHIND THE VEST PANCAKE BREAKFAST



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19th

8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**SAINT JOHN FISHER
KANE HALL**

10200 S. Washtenaw Ave., Chicago

Tickets: \$5 per person / \$25 per family

All proceeds will benefit the Chicago Police Memorial
Foundation's Get Behind the Vest Campaign.

There will be a police mass at 8:00am

**When Chicago Police Officers are hired, they receive a new
bulletproof vest. However, a vest isn't bulletproof forever.**

It wears out. It breaks down. It needs to be replaced every 5 years. Just one bullet permanently damages a vest, making it unusable. Chicago Police Officers are responsible for replacing their own vests. At \$500 or more per vest, in addition to other equipment and uniform expenses, the costs can quickly add up. That's why we need your help.

The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation has paid out more than \$4.9 million to purchase over 12,000 replacement vests for Chicago Police Officers and at least 500 more in 2023. The initiative is ongoing and we project 500 officers a year will need new vests in the future.

This event has raised over \$500,000 to date.



**For more information, please contact Matt O'Shea at
mattoshea@the19thward.com or (773) 238-8766.**

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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 area. We're particularly proud to support the 19th Ward Youth Foundation and its commitment to providing quality recreational opportunities for children and teens.

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CHECK OUT THESE PAW-SOME BENEFITS WITH THE JUNIOR SAVERS CLUB®!

(Must be under age 22. Ask personal banker for details.)

- ✓ FREE Junior Savers Club® events, activities, sweepstakes, and giveaways all year long!
- ✓ Earn interest on every dollar in your Junior Savers account.¹
- ✓ NO minimum deposit to open.²

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.



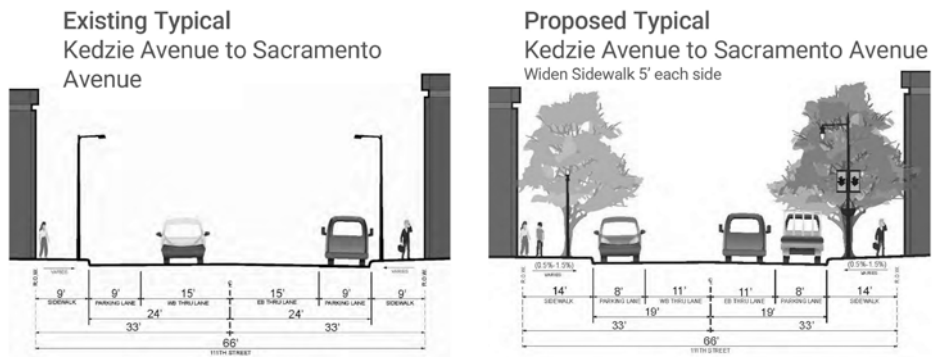
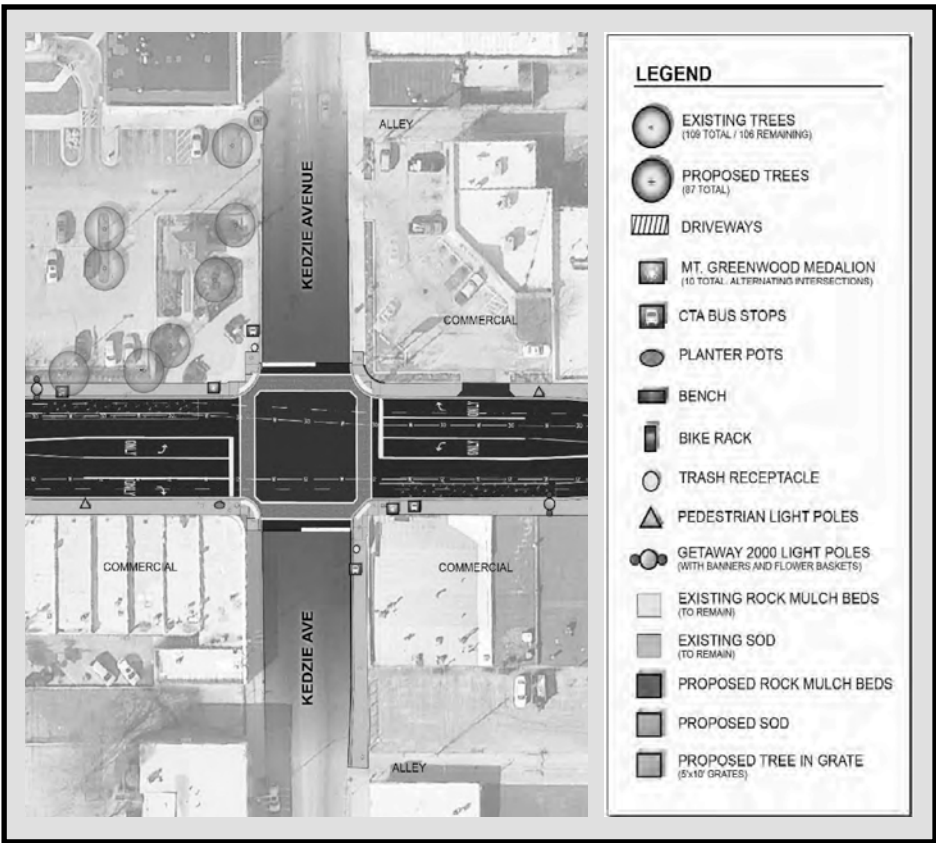
111th St. Streetscape \$7.9 million investment in Mt. Greenwood Corridor

This Spring, the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) will break ground on a Streetscape improvement project on 111th Street from Homan Ave. (3400 W) to Sacramento Avenue (3000W). This project will extend the benefits of the previously completed Streetscape project on 111th Street from Central Park to Homan Ave. Through this project, 111th Street will be renovated with infrastructure upgrades and other decorative elements designed to make the area more pedestrian and business friendly. The project will include:

- New Wider Sidewalks
 - New Curb and Gutter
 - ADA Ramps
 - Upgraded Crosswalks
 - Shorter, better-aligned crosswalks
 - New Lighting
 - Full-Width Roadway Resurfacing
- New Pavement markings and signs
 - Site Furnishings
 - Trees, Landscaping, and Hanging Baskets
 - Sidewalk Medallions (same as those installed in First Section)
 - Light Pole Identifiers (same as those installed in First Section)

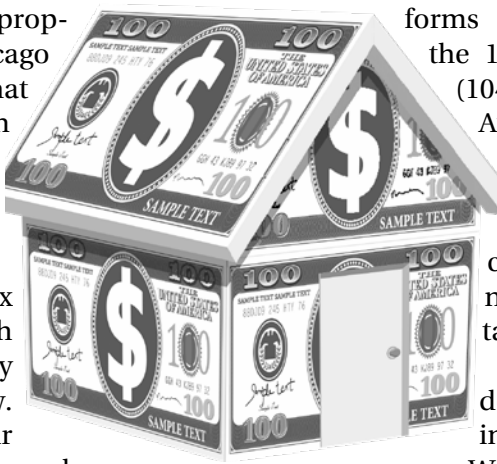


Total project cost: \$7.9M (Design and Construction)



19th Ward Property Tax Appeal Seminar

Residential property taxes in Chicago are too high! That is why the 19th Ward is trying to make it as easy as possible for residents to appeal property tax assessments with the Cook County Board of Review. Appealing your assessment through the Board of Review is simple and risk free.



forms are available at the 19th Ward Office (10400 S. Western Ave). Completing appeal forms takes about five minutes and can result in significant property tax reductions. To assist residents in appealing taxes, the 19th Ward will host a

virtual meeting on Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00pm. To register for this meeting, please visit www.the19thward.com.

Appeals can be filed online at www.cookcountyboardofreview.com or by mail. Paper appeal

Free Yoga for First Responders

The Chicago Park District is offering yoga for first responders at Ridge Park from 6:00-7:00pm on February 27th, March 6th, March 13th, and March 20th. Yoga can help individuals decrease stress and increase their ability to focus and problem solve. First responders experience stress and

trauma at higher levels than most people. Take this opportunity to flow through a vinyasa style yoga class and learn techniques to decompress. First responders and their adult family members are welcome to attend. Please bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing.



Election Day is 2/28

Tuesday, February 28th is Municipal Election Day. Casting your ballot has never been easier! Early voting will be available at Mount Greenwood Park (3721 W. 111th St) from Monday, February 13th to Election Day. Hours of operation are 9:00am-6:00pm on weekdays, 9:00am-5:00pm on Saturday and 10:00am-4:00pm on Sunday. If you are not able to vote on Election Day or take advantage of early voting, you can request a mail in ballot online at <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/vote-by-mail.html> or visit the 19th Ward Office for a vote by mail application.



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Business hours:
Monday-Friday: 10:00-6:00
Saturday: 10:00-4:00
Sunday: Closed



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19th Ward Business Breakfast

On Tuesday, March 28th, Alderman Matt O'Shea will host a breakfast for business owners at La Fiesta Restaurant (3333 W. 111th St) at 8:30am. Staff from the Cook County Sheriff's Office and 22nd District Chicago Police Department will be presenting on their ongoing work on public safety in our community including tips to help prevent small business fraud. The Beverly Area Planning Association, Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association, 95th Street

Business Association, and Mount Greenwood Community & Business Association will co-host this event to discuss different ideas for 2023 and answer any questions that business owners may have.

Anyone operating a business in the 19th Ward is encouraged to attend and learn more about efforts to support the local economy in Beverly, Morgan Park, and Mount Greenwood. If you have any questions, please contact the 19th Ward Office at (773) 238-8766.



O'Shea Ordinance Protects Paramedics, Emergency Workers

The Chicago City Council recently passed Alderman Matt O'Shea's ordinance to create new city fines and jail time for anyone assaulting a paramedic or other emergency workers. Under O'Shea's ordinance, assault on an emergency worker is a violation of city code punishable by up to six months in jail with fines up to \$1,000.

The ordinance comes in response to several recent attacks on first responders in Chicago. Most recently, a brick was thrown through the window of a Chicago Fire Department Ambulance as they responded to a call. In October of 2021, Chicago Fire Department Paramedic-in-Charge Matt Clohessy was beaten by a patient exiting his ambulance, after he was found on the street possibly suffering an overdose. The patient struck Clohessy with a metal lock he had concealed on his person. A photo of Clohessy's injuries is available on Chicago Fire Department Firefighters Union Local 2's Facebook page. He suffered a deep laceration under his left eye and his eye was

swollen shut, but he was fortunate that he only required stitches and was treated and released.

"It is of the utmost importance that we protect the men and women on our front lines, so they can

safely provide care in an emergency situation," said O'Shea. "It is my hope that this ordinance will be the first step in curbing the increase in violence that Chicago paramedics and emergency workers have been dealing with."

"Hundreds of Chicago Fire Department

paramedics put their lives on the line every time they respond to a call. They are exposed to gunshots and fights taking place outside their ambulance and assaults from patients they are treating," said Firefighter and Local 2 Public Relations Director Pat Quane. "This City Council ordinance is a small step toward protecting first responders who rush to dangerous situations, unarmed and simply trying to save the lives of victims of violence, accidents and drug overdoses on the streets of Chicago."



19TH WARD PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP OFF & DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

**Saturday, February 25th
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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**Matt
O'SHEA**
19TH WARD ALDERMAN

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STATE SENATOR

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



PLEASE JOIN STATE SENATOR BILL CUNNINGHAM FOR A

**MOBILE
SECRETARY OF STATE
EVENT**

APRIL 14, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.



LOCATION:
CROSSWINDS CHURCH
10835 S. PULASKI ROAD,
CHICAGO, IL 60655

State Representative **Fran Hurley**, Alderman **Matt O'Shea**, and State Senator **Bill Cunningham** are hosting a Mobile DMV for residents. Mobile DMV events allow residents to conveniently access Secretary of State services in our community rather than visiting a SOS/DMV facility.

» **APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED** «



APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED

SenatorBillCunningham.com/
CrosswindsChurchDMV

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

- Renewal / Correction of Driver's License
- New / Renewal / Correction of State ID
- License Plate Renewal Stickers
- Motor Voter Registration with Renewal of DL / ID
- Organ Donor Registration with Renewal DL / ID
- iCash
- Seniors age 65 and up will not be charged for a State ID

PLEASE NOTE:

- Real ID compliant driver's licenses and ID cards must be processed at a driver services facility.
- Seniors age 75 and up need to visit the DMV to renew a driver's license.
- Proper identification will be needed for any services offered at this event.

For more information, please contact Senator Cunningham at (773) 445-8128.

LINK FOR REGISTRATION: SenatorBillCunningham.com/CrosswindsChurchDMV

Sheriff Dart & Alderman O'Shea present Senior Law Enforcement Academy

Seniors will learn how to protect themselves from crime; communicate with law enforcement; guard against con games and scams; and understand the functions of the Cook County Jail and Courts by participating in the Senior Citizen Law Enforcement Academy. The series of six sessions will be held free of charge at Smith Village, 2320 West 113th Place, from 10am to noon, on Tuesdays April 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 9 and 16. Participants, who attend all six sessions, will be honored at a graduation ceremony and reception on Tuesday, May 16.

“We are grateful to Sheriff Dart for organizing another way our senior citizens can protect themselves from crime. Our goal is to empower seniors in our communities by providing them with the best information,” says 19th Ward Alderman Matt O’Shea. According to the FBI’s 2021 Elder Fraud Report, cybercrime cost senior citizens in the United States nearly \$3 billion in 2021, a 62 percent increase from 2020. “With threats against older adults on the rise, even the savviest residents can benefit from information from experts at the Cook County Sheriff’s Office,” O’Shea explains.

Smith Village will host the se-

ries of sessions. “We are honored to be a part of this important program,” says Smith Village executive director Marti Jatis. “Smith Village is committed to doing our part to improve the health and safety of the community and the Senior Citizen Law Enforcement Academy offers terrific tools that older adults can put to use.”

In addition to free valet parking, refreshments will be served. To register, please call the 19th Ward service office at 773-238-8766 or the Cook County Sheriff’s Office at 708-865-7341. To see the list of topics to be covered each week, visit 19thwardmobile.com.



Sheriff Tom Dart and Alderman Matt O'Shea at a recent public safety presentation at Smith Village.

SENIOR CITIZEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY CURRICULUM

Each session addresses topics so that senior citizens can build an understanding of local law enforcement and gain tools to stay safe.

Session 1, Tuesday, April 11

Meet officers from the Office of the Cook County Sheriff and the Sheriff’s Police Department and gain an understanding of their roles and the services they provide.

Session 2, Tuesday, April 18

Learn about crimes against the elderly and how to guard against identity theft, telemarketing scams, con games and elder abuse.

Session 3, Tuesday, April 25

Get the inside scoop on how 911 and non-emergency calls are handled, as well as patrol procedures, crime scene processing and the fundamentals of an investigation.

Session 4, Tuesday, May 2

Gain insights into the gang crimes and narcotics units and see a demonstration by the K-9 unit.

Session 5, Tuesday, May 9

Deepen understanding of the Sheriff’s Court Services Department, Civil Process Division and the Cook County Jail as well as alternative incarceration programs.

Session 6, Tuesday, May 16

Explore community policing programs and enjoy a graduation ceremony and reception.



**FILL UP YOUR TANK AT KEAN GAS STATION
FEBRUARY 12th - 18th AND 15¢ PER GALLON
WILL BE DONATED TO THE CHICAGO
POLICE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.**

February 12th - 18th
Kean Gas Station
2632 W. 111th Street

Kean Gas will donate 5 cents for every gallon of gas pumped. Two generous donors have agreed to match that donation. That means every gallon of gas pumped will generate 15 cents for the Get Behind the Vest Campaign.



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SAT, MAR 4 | 7PM

TICKETS | \$50 General Seating
\$75 Pre-reception & priority seating

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Honoring Women in the Arts

Featuring a LIVE
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"The Vagina Monologues"

Save the date

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Art & Sole: A SNEAKER JAM

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DJs, Live Music
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BEVERLYARTCENTER.ORG



Cunningham supports new law to claw back SAFE-T Act provisions

State Senator Bill Cunningham voted to approve a series of changes to the Illinois SAFE-T Act during the closing days of the 102nd General Assembly, including provisions that will make it easier for police to enforce trespassing laws and track down offenders who attempt to escape electronic monitoring.

“I voted against the SAFE-T Act when it passed two years ago and I have been working with law enforcement ever since to amend the law,” said Cunningham. “These latest changes make the law more workable for officers on the street and will make residents of Illinois safer.”

The new legislation, House Bill 1095, was passed during this fall’s Veto Session. It addresses many of the concern law enforcement officials have raised about the SAFE-T Act, which was initially voted into law in January 2021. The new law clarifies that judges can issue an arrest warrant or summons when a suspect misses a court date and can hold those accused of forcible felonies in jail while their cases are pending. It also explicitly authorizes the police to detain any person who poses a threat to the community – including trespassers. The original text of the SAFE-T

Act raised concerns among police agencies that they would only be able to issue tickets to individuals found trespassing on private property and would not be allowed to physically remove them. The new legislation places specific language in the law ensuring police can arrest and remove trespassers.

Additionally, HB 1095 ensures law enforcement can immediately charge electronic monitoring suspects who willfully flee with escape, instead of waiting 48 hours as the original law required.

“The SAFE-T Act essentially gave electronic monitoring detainees a two-day head start to flee police if they decided to escape from house arrests,” Cunningham said. “The new law makes it clear that when an electronic monitoring offender willfully flees, he can be arrested and jailed immediately and

charged with escape.”

Another part of the SAFE-T Act that would have eliminated the use of cash bail has been temporarily held up in state court. Scheduled to go into effect January 1st, 2023, the

Pre-trial Fairness Act would have prevented judges in Illinois from setting cash bail for suspects who appear before them in bond hearings. Under the new law, judges would have to decide to either detain a suspect in jail while their case was pending or release them on their own recog-

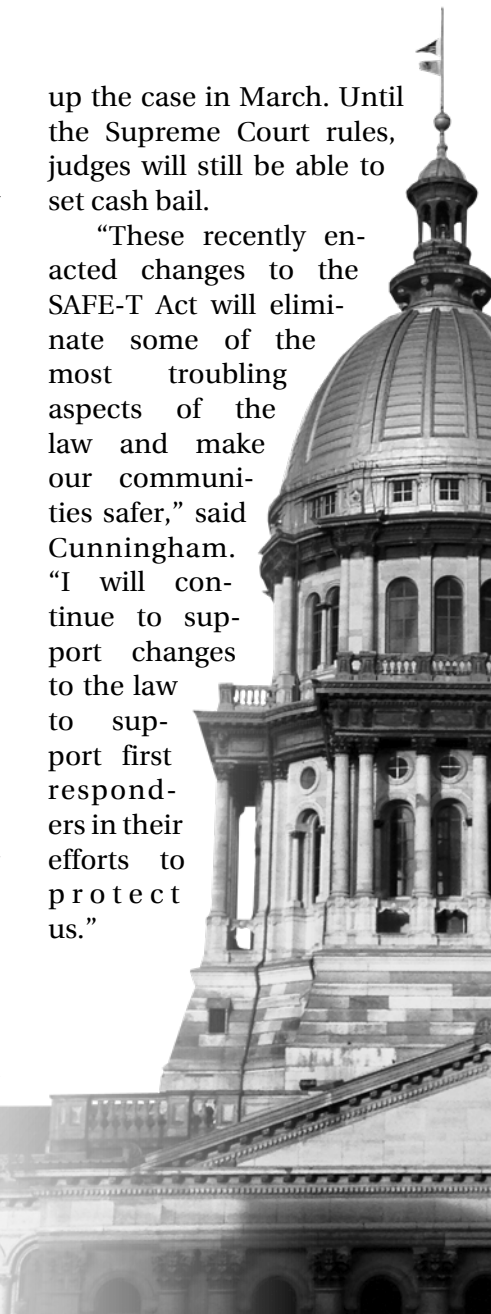
nizance. Critics of the law have argued that eliminating cash bail will result in the release of more suspect and jeopardize public safety. But a judge in Kankakee County found the law was unconstitutional, delaying its implementation. That lower court decision is pending on appeal before the Illinois Supreme Court, which is expected to take



Senator Bill Cunningham

up the case in March. Until the Supreme Court rules, judges will still be able to set cash bail.

“These recently enacted changes to the SAFE-T Act will eliminate some of the most troubling aspects of the law and make our communities safer,” said Cunningham. “I will continue to support changes to the law to support first responders in their efforts to protect us.”



ALDERMAN MATT O’SHEA’S

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

Monday, March 20, 2023
7PM - 8PM

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

To register, please visit www.the19thward.com

Co-Sponsored by:

BILL CUNNINGHAM
STATE SENATOR

Fran Hurley
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 35TH DISTRICT

Come join us and our GREAT musical guests for a FUN night celebrating the beginning of the 2023 South Side Irish Parade season!

SOUTH SIDE IRISH PARADE PRESENTS

2023 KICKOFF Party

3:00–8:00pm
115 Bourbon Street

LIVE MUSIC FEATURING...
Pat Finnegan & Friends
Liam Durkin

4Cast
Spanning 4 Decades of Rock!

\$40 per person

includes draft beer, wine, pop, water, food & entertainment

Tickets available at the door or scan here to purchase online by February 24.

Saturday FEBRUARY 25

South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade

O'Shea Challenges Students to take the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

Registration for the 23rd Annual Chicago Polar Plunge, presented by Jackson, which is the largest Polar Plunge event in the Midwest, and benefits the athletes of the Special Olympics Chicago/Special Children's Charities (SOC/SCC) program, is now available by visiting www.chicagopolarplunge.org. A virtual option is also available. This year, Alderman O'Shea is challenging students throughout the 19th Ward to create school based teams and take the plunge to support Special Olympics programming in schools and parks throughout the City. Students are provided a reduced \$100 fundraising minimum to plunge and teams of 20 or more are eligible for free bus transportation.

The Chicago Polar Plunge has become the must-attend winter event in the city. The 2022 Chicago Polar Plunge raised over \$1.8 million dollars for the athletes of SOC/SCC, with over 3600 plungers and 350 teams participating. Unlike other plunges in the State of Illinois, all money raised from the Chicago Polar Plunge stays within the city of Chicago to benefit the athletes of the SOC/SCC program who live in the city.

Registrants are asked to raise a minimum of \$200. All participating



Students from Marist High School take the Chicago Polar Plunge.

plungers will receive free parking at Lincoln Park Zoo, or a free bus for groups of 20 or more; a souvenir t-shirt; towel when exiting the water; and free photo downloads.

For more than a decade, the Chicago Polar Plunge has become one of the largest, and most well-known plunges in the country, attracting celebrity plungers, and garnering national and international attention. Plungers have included "The Tonight Show" host **Jimmy Fallon**, actors **Vince Vaughn** and **Dax Shepard**, musician/artist **Lady Gaga**, the casts of *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago PD*, and *Chicago Med*, **Al Roker**, **Craig Melman**, and other personalities from The TODAY Show. Last year, celebrity plungers included **Chris Witaske**, co-star of Hulu's *The Bear*, and also known as the Chicago Party Aunt,

Mayor Lori Lightfoot, and **First Lady Amy Eshleman**.

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

Online registration will remain open until Saturday, March 4th, and walk-up registration is available the day of the event.

Athletes compete and train in 17 sports throughout the year in

Chicago Public Schools and Chicago Park District locations.

In addition to sports activities, SOC/SCC provides extracurricular activities including arts programming, an athlete produced cable access television show, cooking nights, dance parties, special events, field trips and more.

For more information on the Chicago Polar Plunge benefiting Special Olympics Chicago, please call 312.527.3743; or email chicagopolarplunge@sochicago.org.



Craig Melvin and Al Roker from the Today Show join Special Olympics Chicago President Matt O'Shea to launch the 2020 Chicago Polar Plunge.

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2nd Annual CHICAGO AG SCIENCES FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

The show will feature, local restaurant tastings, a micro-garden design competition, demonstrations and workshops, tablescape, gardening products, Chicago Ag Science student-made products and more!

\$5.00 ENTRANCE FEE

SHOW LOCATION

CHICAGO AG RIDING ARENA - 3857 W. 111TH STREET

SHOW HOURS

March 24 6pm - 9pm

March 25 11am - 5pm

March 26 12pm - 4pm



This years theme is: Come fly PAN AG and explore our 8 Gardens Around the World! Come on a journey that will take you to Japan, France, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Italy, Africa and Germany.

2023 Get Behind the Vest Events Planned

19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea's annual Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, February 19th, 8:00am - 12:00pm at Saint John Fisher School, located at 10200 S. Washtenaw Ave. For the first time since 2020, the Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast will be dine-in and in-person. Now in its ninth year, Ald. O'Shea's Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast benefits the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's (CPMF) initiative, which purchases bullet proof vests for Chicago Police officers.

The morning will kick-off with a mass for police officers, their families, and supporters, at 8:00am at Saint John Fisher Church.

Admission to the Pancake Breakfast is \$5 per person or \$25 for

families, which includes all you can eat Original Pancake House (Beverly) pancakes and sausage.

In addition to the Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast, a number of events will be hosted to raise additional funds for the CPMF. For the second year, WGN Radio's Sweet Home Chicago with David Hochberg has partnered with Ald. O'Shea for a "Vest-a-Thon" Fundraiser, which will take place on Saturday, February 18th. The 2022 Vest-A-Thon raised over \$200,000 for the purchase of bullet proof vests. The Vest-a-Thon will feature stories of officers whose lives have been impacted by bullet proof vests, including brave officers from the Chicago Police Department, who will share their perspective on the increasingly difficult work they

do each day. Donors to the Vest-A-Thon will have the opportunity to win incredible prizes including skybox experiences at many of Chicago's best teams, sports paraphernalia, and much more.

To participate, please tune into WGN Radio 720AM on Saturday, February 18th, 10:00am - 1:00pm. Donations will also be accepted by visiting cpdvest.com, or by calling 872-262-8378 (VEST). To volunteer, donate sports tickets, or other items to be given away throughout the Vest-a-Thon, please e-mail mattoshea@the19thward.com.

Additionally, Kean Gas Station (2632 W. 111th Street) will donate 15 cents per gallon of gas sold between Sunday, February 12th and Saturday, February 18th. This effort is sponsored by Kean Gas Station, Beverly Bank & Trust, and AthleteX.

"Chicago Police officers are on the front lines every day to ensure our safety, and it is important that we do what we can to insure they get home safely to their families at the end of each shift," said Ald. O'Shea. "In 2014, Chicago Police officers were shot at a total of eight times, and none were struck by gunfire. Compare that to 2021, where 69 officers were shot at, 10 were struck by gunfire, and one was fatally shot. In 2022, Chicago Police officers were shot at 48 times,

and eight were struck by gunfire. It is imperative that Chicago Police Officers have access to up-to-date bullet proof vests with the latest technology advancements, and the funds raised through the Get Behind The Vest Pancake Breakfast and Vest-A-Thon will help to provide that."

In the past nine years, Ald. O'Shea's efforts have raised more than \$500,000 to support the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's initiative. Bullet proof vests need to be replaced every five years, at a cost of about \$600 each. To date, CPMF has replaced more than 11,000 vests, with an annual goal to replace 500 vests for officers each year.

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

The Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast is generously co-hosted by Saint John Fisher Parish, the Harrigan Family and the Original Pancake House (Beverly).

For more information on Alderman Matt O'Shea's Pancake Breakfast, or to support this great cause, please call 773.238.8766 or visit www.the19thward.com.



Alderman Matt O'Shea participates in last year's WGN Radio Vest-a-Thon

ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

Thursday, March 16, 2023

12:00 P.M.

115 Bourbon Street, 3359 W. 115th St.
\$5 Admission includes family style luncheon
Cash bar available
Live Music
Open to 19th Ward Residents Only
Space is limited, reservations required
773-238-8776 or margie@the19thward.com

Live Music
Featuring
Liam Durkin

Senior Citizen
Irish
Soda Bread
Contest
Prizes for
Top Three Finishers

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Matt O'SHEA
19TH WARD ALDERMAN

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Smith VILLAGE

PAID FOR BY THE 19TH WARD YOUTH & COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Chicago Historian Dilla Thomas to Visit Sutherland for Black History Month

On Wednesday, February 15th, Alderman Matt O’Shea and Sherman “Dilla” Thomas will host a Black History Month event at 6:00pm at Sutherland Elementary School. A unique blend of modern historian, cultural worker, and public employee, Dilla has become a social media sensation. He is a proud, life long resident of Chicago’s South side and uses his signature phrase “everything dope about America comes from Chicago.”

Dilla’s 60 second Chicago history videos have been viewed over 8 million times and he has amassed over 150,000 followers across all social media platforms. In addition to the evening event, which is free and open to the public, Dilla will

also be conducting an in school assembly for Sutherland IB students during the school day on February 15th.

At both events, Dilla will share his unique, clever insights on Black History in Chicago. In addition to speaking engagements, Dilla operates Chicago Mahogany Bus Tours which explore the rich history of many of Chicago’s communities including Bronzeville, Pullman, Roseland and North Lawndale. Dilla is also on the steering committee of the Black History Initiative.

Space for the evening event is limited. To reserve your seat today, please visit www.the19thward.com. We hope to see you there.



Alderman Matt O’Shea and Sherman “Dilla” Thomas discussing the upcoming Black History Month Event at Sutherland Elementary School.

19th Ward

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Ald. O'Shea, Smith Village & St. Cajetan prepare Valentines for Vets

Intergenerational cupids are preparing to show respect and caring for veterans receiving care at the Road Home Program at Rush University Medical Center with their seventh annual Valentines for Vets program. Alderman Matt O'Shea will join Smith Village residents and members of the St. Cajetan student council to create Valentine's Day gifts.

This year, the team will create origami hearts and cranes, a symbol of healing and hope. They also will decorate glass bowls and fill them with their paper creations and send them with words of encouragement on cards they design to share their thanks for the service of the veterans.

"Citizens of all ages are grateful to veterans for their remarkable service and

sacrifice," says 19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea, who initiated this annual expression of support and love for veterans. "Seeing the warmth and enthusiasm of both the students and the seniors really inspires me."

The Road Home Program at Rush is dedicated to the mental health and wellness of veterans, service members, members of the National Guard, reservists and their families. The free program

specializes in treating invisible wounds of war, including PTSD, that resists traditional methods of treatment. The Road Home Program is nationally recognized for its intensive two-week outpatient program that draws service members from around the country. To date more than 3,000 veterans have benefitted from treatment in the Road Home Program.

"The veterans positively light up when they receive the gifts from

the seniors and the students," says Modie Lavin, USMC Gold Star Mother and Family Outreach Coordinator for the Road Home Program at Rush University Medical Center.

Eric H. Chessier, an outreach coordinator who will join this event on February 14 at Smith Village stated, "This kind of thoughtfulness is unexpected and so appreciated. It touches the hearts not only of the veterans but also of our staff

members who serve them. It is uplifting to know that the 19th Ward community supports and cares in such a personal way."

While showing love for veterans was the inspiration for this annual event, the participants benefit as well. "I decided to participate last year because I thought it would be a nice way to get together with the younger generation and do a good deed for the veterans at the same time," says Smith Village resident Nancy Mishlove. "I think the kids are surprised at how active we are as seniors. And, we love how willing they are to jump right in and try something creative and new."

"Our students look forward to helping veterans each and every year," says St. Cajetan principal Michelle Nitsche. "The interaction between our students and Smith Village residents is truly moving and something we would love to see more often. So much joy and reward is shared as they work together, and when it is for a good cause like honoring our vets, even better."

This year, the group plans to make gifts and cards for 45 veterans which Eric Chessier will deliver to them on Tuesday, February 14.



Last year, Smith Village resident Nancy Mishlove (l) and St. Cajetan student Kevin Shannon (r) joined a team of multi-generational cupids at Smith Village to create lush terrariums and personal cards to brighten the lives of veterans, who benefit from a variety of healthcare programs provided by the Road Home Program at Rush University Medical Center.

Mercy Circle resident shares memories of St. Xavier and Mother McAuley's early days

Change and challenge were in the air in 1952 when the Sisters of Mercy made the bold move to purchase 155 acres of land between 103rd and 99th Streets from Central Park to Pulaski Avenues. There, they would relocate Saint Xavier College from its home since 1901 at 49th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue.

Sister Mary Ann Bergfeld, RSM, now a Mercy Circle resident, recalls what it took to follow the post-World War II tide of young Catholic couples with large families moving to the far southwest side. They needed schools.

So faithful to their commitment as educators, Sisters of Mercy established Mother McAuley High School on the north side of the 155 acres. They also invited the Irish Christian Brothers to build a boys' high school on the northwest parcel of their land.

When she was a freshman at Saint Xavier College at 49th and Cottage Grove, Sister Mary Ann recalls one of many roles too numerous to count that young Sisters played in managing such a major move.

"Soon the library had to be boxed up for transfer to the new location. One young Sister, a mem-

ber of the Miller family, asked her family to provide sturdy beer cartons. Once the library was boxed, all of us young Sisters got on a bus and headed to the new campus to

"As our students and their families from those early days have aged, so did the Sisters who have served our neighbors for close to 70 years. Me among them," says

Sister Mary Ann. When she was ready to retire she wanted to stay in the neighborhood she had called home for decades. Again, Sisters of Mercy had the foresight to plan ahead. "In 2013, I was one of the first residents to move into Mercy Circle designed and staffed to meet seniors' needs," Sister Mary Ann says. "Today, I love my apartment, my companions from the neighborhood and those from afar! I feel the plans of long-ago Sisters of Mercy, and my life, now have come full circle." For more information or to schedule a private appointment, please call 773-253-3600 or visit MercyCircle.org.



Sisters of Mercy oversee construction at Mother McAuley High School. Photo credit: Mother McAuley High School Archives

unpack them so the new campus would be ready to welcome students in 1956," she says.

"Before too long, I advanced from library mover to teacher at what has become Saint Xavier University," says Sister Mary Ann, who was a professor there for 38 years.



Students in the Bishop Quarter Reading Room at the St. Xavier College Library, 1958. Photo credit: St. Xavier University Archives

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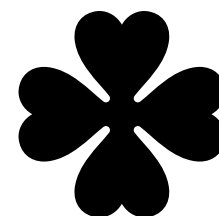
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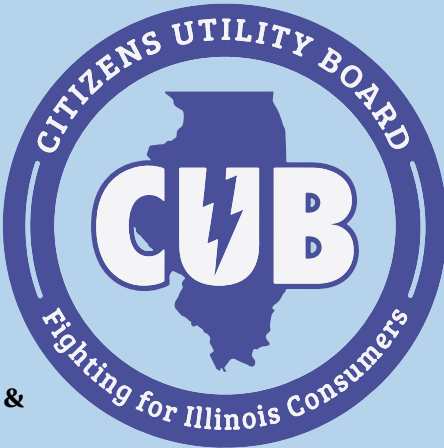


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Citizen Utility Board Hosts Cable Options & Reducing Robocalls and Home Energy Savings Virtual Presentations

Alderman Matt O’Shea and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) will host two virtual presentations on Tuesday, March 21st from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, and Thursday, March 23rd from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. There is no cost for these webinars. To reserve your spot today, visit the19thward.com.



Understanding Cable Options & Reducing Robocalls Webinar Tuesday, March 21st at 1 pm

CUB will present the different choices in the TV market, ways to cut your cable costs, whether or not to keep 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.

Home Energy Savings Webinar Thursday, March 23rd at 6 pm

Are you concerned about the rise in utility prices? Join CUB for information about how to reduce your energy usage. This event is designed to help you better understand the ins and outs of your bill, avoid utility scams, as well as programs designed to save you money and energy. Bring all your utility-related questions.

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

Hurley Named Mod Caucus Whip, Seeks Common Ground

Reflecting her strong track record of working with members on both sides of the aisle to get things done, state Rep. Fran Hurley has been re-appointed as whip of the House Democrats’ “Mod Caucus.”

“The Mod Caucus is a diverse group of members from around the state who understand it’s unhelpful to play partisan games or push policy beyond what most residents would be comfortable with,” Hurley said. “Our focus should be on finding common ground and delivering real results on the issues working families care about.”

In an era of extreme partisanship, Hurley has encouraged a more moderate approach to public safety, taxes and other issues. The Moderate Caucus, better known as the “Mod Caucus,” was developed to unify like-minded representa-

tives to advocate for a balanced approach toward building a stronger economy, improving education, increasing access to health care,

and strengthening support for first responders and union workers.

“This is a caucus made up of individuals who will listen to everyone and work to produce actual results,” Hurley said. “There will be a number of challenges we face in the coming year that will

require a responsible, balanced approach. It’s important that moderates stand together as a strong voice.”

The Mod Caucus currently has 20 members, with more expected to join from this year’s incoming class of newly-elected representatives. An updated roster can be viewed at <https://ilhousedems.com/legislators/> under the Moderate Caucus tab.



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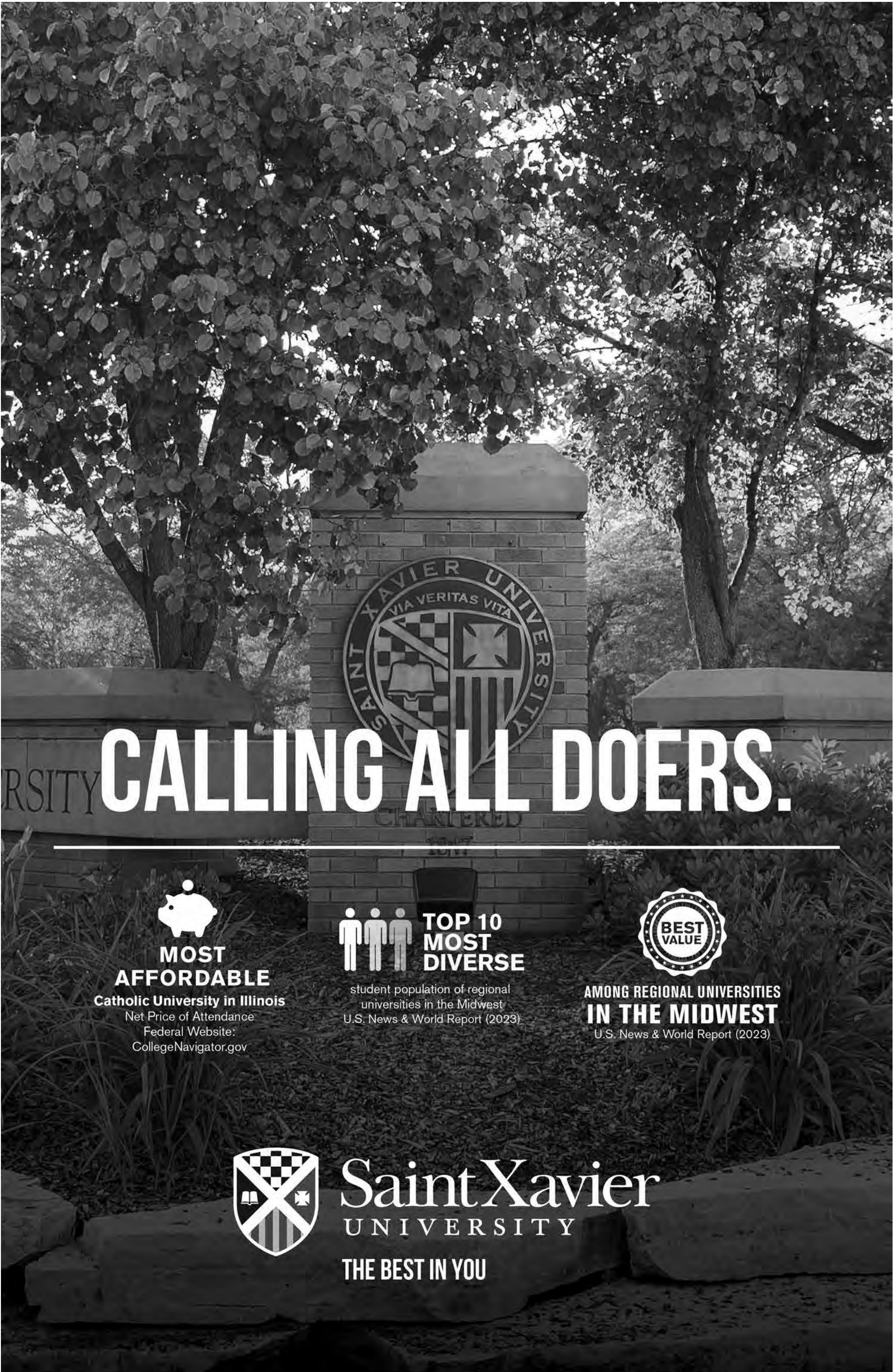
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South Side Irish Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Kicks Off with Pre-Parade Fundraiser

One of Chicago’s most well-known traditions, the South Side Irish Saint Patrick’s Day Parade, will kick off the festivities with a pre-parade party to inspire the Spirit of Saint Patrick on Saturday, February 25th. The event will feature the selection of the South Side Irish Parade Queen, live Irish music, buffet food, beverages and much more. The party will be held at 115 Bourbon Street (3359 W. 115th St), 3:00 - 8:00pm.

Admission includes a dinner buffet, draft beer and wine. Live music of Liam Durkin and 4Cast will be featured inside the Performance Hall. The fun evening celebrating Irish heritage will also offer a quieter approach with Irish traditional music sessions featuring Pat Finnegan and Friends. Proceeds from the fundraising event help offset operating expenses to produce the annual parade set for Sunday, March 12th.

Tickets are \$40 at the door or available for purchase in advance on the Parade website store,

“We are delighted to bring back the South Side Irish Kick-Off Party for the first time since 2020, a festive event that helps raise funds to keep our tradition alive of marching down Western Avenue,” said

Marianne Rowan Leslie, this year’s co-chair of the South Side Irish Parade Committee. “We also encourage families and businesses to consider purchasing a street pole banner as a great way to both honor your name and show your support for the Parade,” adds Leslie.

To purchase a customized street pole banner, visit the store at southsideirishparade.org

The South Side Irish Parade Queen will be announced at the Pre-Parade Party. The South Side Irish Parade Queen will be prominently featured in the South Side Irish Saint Patrick’s Day Parade and also ride in the downtown Chicago Saint Patrick’s Day Parade

and have an entry in the Chicago Rose of Tralee Selection.

About The South Side Irish Parade:

The parade is operated by the South Side Irish Saint Patrick’s Day Parade and Heritage Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, where more than 100 volunteers work year-round to ensure this family-friendly celebration continues for future generations.

The parade is generously supported by major sponsors including Tullamore D.E.W. Official Irish Whiskey of the Parade, Lakeshore Beverage, Dunkin’ Official Parade Coffee, Ozinga, Chicago City Soc-

cer Club, The Beverly Review, IUOE Local 399, Chicago White Sox, MediSpa, Local 150, Ullico Inc., Flood Brothers, Home Run Inn Beverly, ComEd, County Fair Foods, Hilton Chicago/Oak Lawn, OSF Little Company of Mary Medical Center, Mercedes-Benz of Orland Park, Marquette Bank, Megent Financial, Nascar Chicago Street Race, Guinness, BudLight, Green River, Roofers and Waterproofers Local 11, and South Side Irish Imports and more.

Visit southsideirishparade.org and the parade’s Facebook page for more information on the kick off party and the South Side Irish Parade.



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Burke Named Chair of House Revenue Committee, Leads Fight for Continued Fiscal Responsibility and Smart Budgeting

State Rep. Kelly Burke, D-Evergreen Park, was recently named chair of the House Revenue Committee. Under her direction, the committee will maintain its focus on fiscal responsibility and smart budgeting that has served Illinois well in recent years.

“I am grateful to Speaker Welch for the opportunity to take a leadership role in this key area,” Burke said. “In recent years, previous chairs of this committee have led Illinois to a much stronger fiscal position. Paying back bills early saves taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in interest charges while improving our long-term credit standing. My goal is to keep up that trend going strong so that we can afford

to steadily lessen the property tax burden on Illinois working families.”



Burke was appointed as chair of the House Revenue Committee by Speaker Emanuel ‘Chris’ Welch. The Revenue Committee plays a key role in passing legislation that covers tax rebates, bill payments and funding of some state agencies. Revenue is also responsible for passing a budget every year.

“Illinoisans deserve representatives who are careful with their tax dollars. As chair of the Revenue committee, I take that responsibility with the seriousness it deserves,” Burke said. “I look forward to this new challenge as the 103rd General Assembly begins.”

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At Smith Village, assisted living community provides support so older adults thrive

“Community is first of all a quality of the heart,” according to author Henri J.M. Nouwen. Smith Village, which is woven into the fabric of the 19th Ward community, is currently welcoming new residents interested in joining its assisted living community.

“Smith Village offers older adults just the right amount of personal support so they can thrive. Our residents remain active, engaged members of the commu-

nity,” says Tammy Stockover, sales coordinator for Smith Village.

“Many Smith Village residents have called the 19th Ward their home for decades,” adds Meghan Maple, associate executive director at Smith Village. “We pride ourselves in extending that sense of heartfelt community to everyone—residents, their families and our staff members.”

The Smith Village assisted living community features comfortable one-bedroom apartments. Residents are liberated from household chores by weekly housekeeping and laundry services. They also enjoy socializing over three meals a day. With the right kind of support in place, residents save their energy to enjoy programs and activities, and visits with friends and family.

Additionally, staff members work with the residents and their families to assess individual needs. Medication management, bathing or dressing assis-

tance and other services are provided, if and when they are necessary. Additional resources for residents with dementia are available.

“We needed to find a place where Mom could get the care she needs and still be independent,” says 19th Ward resident Pat Hudec, whose mother Barbara Grobmeier moved to Smith Village in January of this year. Everyone in the neighborhood told us that Smith Village was the gold-standard, but there were rumors about waiting lists. When I called, I was thrilled to find out Mom could move in right away!”

Living at Smith Village sets the tone for living a happy life close to family and friends. In 2017, Harvard University published a study almost 80 years in the making. Initially, researchers assumed good genes were the key to longevity. Yet the data actually proved that healthy relationships and supportive communities were the factors that extend lives and improve happiness.

Mrs. Grobmeier has only been at Smith Village for more than one month, but already her family sees remarkable positive changes in her social and physical health. “She is walking more, making friends

and loving the food in the dining room,” says Hudec. “She feels confident knowing she has a call button to click for help whenever she needs someone.”

Resident Connie Bednarczyk has lived at Smith Village for more than a year and is bursting with enthusiasm about her new home. “Moving to Smith Village was better than I ever could have expected,” she says. “They take care of absolutely everything. I don’t have to go shopping for food. They help with my medications, my showers and all of the meals.” This frees up her time to take advantage of activities she loves, like the walking club, bingo and trivia games.

Many families find that having a loved one’s basic needs met, changes the nature of their relationships. Instead of visits being dominated by chores and logistics, they enjoy conversations and activities. Both Grobmeier’s daughters live five minutes from the community and visit regularly. “We went to an oldies sing-along with Mom recently and had a great time,” Hudec says. “They even have a pub for heaven’s sake!”

For more information about Smith Village, 2320 West 113th Place in Chicago, call 773-474-7300 or visit SmithVillage.org.




Smith Village assisted living resident, Connie Bednarczyk, enjoys taking part in community activities and looks forward to chatting with her friends over puzzles.




Pat Hudec (l-r) loves getting a cup of coffee with her mom Barbara Grobmeier at the Smith Village pub. Grobmeier joined the assisted living community at Smith Village in January.

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