



Quarterly

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

AUGUST 2024

Registration Now Open for The Beverly Hills Turkey Trot 5K

The Beverly Hills Turkey Trot 5K Run and Family Walk returns to the 19th Ward community on Saturday, November 30th, beginning at 9 a.m. at 9200 S. Hamilton Avenue. This year marks the 16th year for an event that has become a family tradition and is expected to attract 2,500 participants. Proceeds from this year's 5K will once again benefit the John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and the 19th Ward Youth and Community Foundation.

Runners and walkers of all ages can register now by visiting the19thward.com. Participants who register before race day are guaranteed a Beverly Hills Turkey Trot long-sleeved event t-shirt. The 5K will be chip-timed on a CARA certified 5K course, while the family walk will be untimed.

"We are looking forward to hosting the 16th annual Beverly Hills Turkey Trot, and look forward

to a record-breaking turnout," said Matt O'Shea, Alderman of the 19th Ward and founder of the 19th Ward Youth and Community Foundation. "This event gives us a great opportunity to bring the community together on Thanksgiving weekend and help raise funds for two organizations that do so much for our neighborhood."

The 19th Ward and the Original Pancake House – Beverly will host a pancake breakfast immediately following the race, 10:30 a.m. in the school gym. Admission is \$5 per person; or \$25 for a family.

One of the beneficiaries of this year's 5K, the John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, also known as Live Like John, was founded in 2012 by North Beverly residents Ed and Amy McNicholas, after their son, John, passed away from a brain tumor in 2010 at the age of 15. The Foundation began with the goal of eradicat-

ing pediatric brain tumors. Since it began, the foundation has pushed for advancements in the care and treatment of pediatric brain tumors by facilitating better coordination of information between patients and providers, improving the quality of life for patients, and funding specifically targeted for pediatric brain tumor research and treatment options.

The 19th Ward Youth and Community Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports and hosts a wide variety of safe, healthy, and educational youth activities for children in Beverly, Morgan Park, and Mount Greenwood. All programs are made available at little to no cost



to participants and are intended to help children and teens make new friends and stay active in the community. Some events include the Children's Film Festival, Holiday Dodge Ball Tournament, Summer Concerts in the Park, the Beverly Hills Turkey Trot, Family Ice Skating Party, Paper Shredding Days, and support to countless community causes.

For more information on the 16th Annual Beverly Hills Turkey Trot 5K and sponsorship opportunities, please visit the19thward.com or call (773) 238-8766.

111th Streetscape Project Draws to a Close

The 111th Streetscape project that began in May of 2023 is 90% complete. The project included new sidewalk, curb and gutter, sewer structures, bus pad, driveways and alley aprons between Homan and Sacramento Avenues. The last piece is replacing the existing streetlights with new light poles. The contractor anticipates completing installation by late August. We thank the business owners and residents for their patience during this project.



Local Postal Customer

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Local Student's Artwork Selected for Use by the DNC

Local resident, Bridie O'Malley, a rising sophomore at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, submitted a design for consideration by the Democratic National Convention Committee in an artwork competition sponsored for the upcoming convention. As Bridie's mother, Jeanine O'Malley, explains, "Bridie was born an artist – her forever doodling eventually turned into drawing, sketching, painting, sculpting, crocheting, and constantly creating." Bridie

lent her creative juices to her design and came in second place in the DNC's competition. She was recognized by the Democratic National Convention at a gathering in Bronzeville on July 31st.

Bridie was inspired to enter this contest using art as a medium to show her view of the city and its potential. Her mother explains, "Bridie continues to have idealistic views of the power of unity in a culture that seems to divide us."



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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.

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Mother McAuley Recognizes Blair Early Childhood Center at Annual “Fore the Macs” Golf Outing

Mother McAuley High School will host the school’s annual Fore the Macs Playing it Forward Golf Outing on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at Ridge Country Club. The annual fundraiser benefits the Tradition of Excellence Scholarship at McAuley with nine holes of golf. The 2023 event raised \$125,000 in scholarship for the incoming freshman class.

While the golf portion of the event has already sold out, the school is still offering tickets for the AFTER PAR-TEE for \$75 per person. Tickets include a light dinner and a three-hour open bar. Further, those who are unable to attend can purchase raffle tickets for the chance to win an 18-hole round at a prestigious local club including Chicago Highlands, Hinsdale Golf Club, Long Beach Country Club, Beverly Country Club, Lost Dunes Golf Club, or the Health & Wellness Raffle where the winner will receive a 10-pack of Treadfit classes and a gift certificate to purchase an Oura Ring in the size, style, and finish of their choice.

In addition, Mother McAuley will award the 2024 Caring Heart Award to the Leadership and Staff at Blair Early Childhood Center.

The Caring Heart award pays tribute to alumna Caroline Griffin, class of 2012, who never let her congenital heart condition get in the way of enjoying life. Blair has more than 100 staff members, 33 of whom are Mother McAuley alumnae. For the past thirty years, Mother McAuley Little School has partnered with Blair. This partnership has led many students to pursue careers in special education and helped form their caring hearts. At the helm of Blair stands Principal Bess Hendry, class of 1994, and Assistant Principal, Julie Kujawa, Class of 1997, who are beacons of compassion and commitment.

“The leadership and staff at Blair exemplify the very essence of the Caring Heart Award. Their unwavering commitment, compassionate spirit, and dedication to each child’s journey make them truly deserving of this prestigious recognition,” commented Carey Temple Harrington, class of 1986, and president of Mother McAuley.

For more information on the event and opportunities to support it, please visit:

[Mothermcauley.org/alumnae/events/golf-outing-2024/#register](https://mothermcauley.org/alumnae/events/golf-outing-2024/#register)



Local Resident Displays Courage on the Road to Recovery

On Monday, July 15th, 19th Ward resident, Enzo Zerillo, was struck by a vehicle while crossing the street during his commute to work in downtown Chicago. Enzo was heading to his internship at Marsh McLennan Agency that morning when a driver hit him as he crossed Van Buren with other LaSalle Street Station morning Metra commuters. Enzo was the only pedestrian struck by the vehicle.

Enzo sustained extensive, severe injuries from the accident. He has undergone several surgeries to date and will be in inpatient rehabilitation for the foreseeable future. Despite the extensive challenges he is currently facing, he continues to maintain a positive outlook. His family has shared that his witty sense of humor has endeared him to many of the dozens and dozens of caregivers and staff that have helped this young man in the past couple of weeks during his

hospitalization.

Enzo is a lifelong Beverly resident, Sutherland Elementary and Jones College Prep graduate, veteran golf caddy at Ridge Country Club, MCLA college lacrosse player and spring 2024 graduate from Tulane University.

Please keep Enzo in your thoughts and prayers as he has a challenging road to recovery ahead of him. The Zerillo family extends their heartfelt appreciation to all in the community who have wrapped them in love and support

during these challenging weeks after this traumatic event.

Enzo’s employers, Marsh McLennan Agency and Ridge Country Club are both hosting GoFundMe drives searchable by entering his name on the fundraising site, gofundme.com. Any funds collected will go directly to support Enzo and his family during this incredibly difficult time.



Beverly Art Walk 9/28

The 11th Annual Beverly Art Walk, organized by the Beverly Area Arts Alliance (the Alliance), is a celebration of art and music, showcasing a diverse array of unique cultural assets, local artists’ home studios, and art environments across Beverly/Morgan Park. Happening on Saturday, September 28th from noon to 5 p.m., this free, family-friendly event features more than 100 artists in 40+ venues, the return of the popular Uprising Craft Market at 103rd and Wood Street, the Family Fun Park at Sutherland in conjunction with Sutherland’s I Madonnari street painting festival, live music, pop-up galleries and public art activa-

tions. As has been the tradition for the last few years, the Art Walk Afterparty begins at 5 p.m. at Nicky’s of Beverly. New this year, there will be an Art Walk Preview Party as well on Friday, September 27th from 7-10 p.m. at the Beverly Arts Center showcasing artwork, music, and performances. “The Art Walk is a lot to take in on one day, so now attendees can get a head start on the fun on Friday night,” said event organizer, Sal Campbell of the Alliance. There is something for everyone at the Walk. Please visit beverlyarts.org before you go for maps and information to help plan your Art Walk experience.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH



8:30 A.M. RACE START

MT. GREENWOOD CEMETERY
2900 W. 111TH ST.

To register scan the QR Code or visit:
raceroster.com/events/2024/92242/tombstone-5k



Matt O'SHEA
19TH WARD ALDERMAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
35th DISTRICT
Mary GILL

BILL CUNNINGHAM
STATE SENATOR

8th Annual Sip and Shop

The 8th Annual Sip and Shop sponsored by the Beverly Area Planning Association and the Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association will take place on Thursday, September 19th at the shopping districts on 103rd Street and on 99th Street and Walden Parkway. This popular event invites attendees to shop over 20 locally owned small businesses and enjoy sips and bites along the way. Check-in for the event begins at 5:30 p.m. and closes at 7 p.m. at Ohana Ice and Treats, 1800 W. 99th Street.

Shopping will be open until 9 p.m. The event concludes with an after party at Sanders BBQ, 1742 W. 99th Street.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the event. Please visit BAPA's website, bapa.org, to purchase your ticket.

Souvenir tote bags will be given to the first 400 ticket holders. Everyone who purchases a ticket will be entered in a raffle to win a \$300 shopping spree.

Now is the time to round up your friends and make plans to attend this highly anticipated event.

A New Direction (AND) to Host Fundraiser at Cork & Kerry

A New Direction is part of the WINGS Program, Inc. and has been providing services to clients locally since



A NEW DIRECTION
BEVERLY MORGAN PARK

2011, to help them break the cycle of domestic violence. Support for AND is needed to help provide the following services to local clients:

- Domestic violence education
- Crisis intervention, safety planning, counseling, education, and support
- Resource referrals
- Legal Advocacy to navigate Illinois' legal system for divorces, orders of protection, parenting plans, and child support cases

This year they are holding a fundraiser to support A New Direction on Saturday, November 2nd from 7-11 p.m. at Cork and Kerry, 10614 S. Western Avenue. The Ron Burgundys will provide live music, and there will be drinks and lite bites/heavy appetizers. Tickets are \$75 each and sponsorship opportunities are available. Please visit the WINGS website at wingsprogram.com for more information.

CUB Hosts Virtual Presentations

Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, State Representative Mary Gill, and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) will host two virtual presentations on Tuesday, September 10th from 1:00-2:00 p.m., and on Thursday, September 12th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. There is no cost for these webinars. To reserve your spot today, visit the19thward.com.



Home Energy Savings: Tuesday, September 10th at 1 p.m.

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, teach you how to avoid utility scams, and share information about programs designed to save you money and energy. Please be prepared to share your utility related questions.

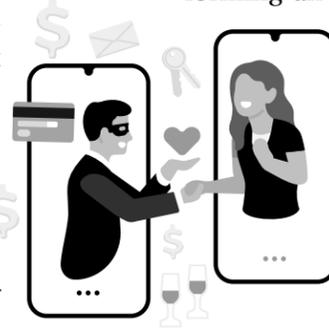
Understanding Cable Options & Reducing Robocalls: Thursday, September 12th at 6 p.m.

CUB will present the different choices in the TV market, share ways to reduce your cable costs, discuss whether to keep cable, and provide alternatives to satellite or cable such as using streaming services. In addition, CUB will discuss the different types of robocalls, explain how to avoid common robocall scams, explain call blocking services and what they mean for your budget, and discuss new proposed federal legislation.

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

Sweetheart Scams on Seniors: A Growing Concern

Sweetheart scams, also known as romance scams, are particularly dangerous when predators target seniors. Often, fraudsters initiate romantic interests to emotionally and financially exploit vulnerable seniors. The impact of sweetheart scams on seniors is profound, often leading to significant financial loss and emotional trauma that can have lasting effects on their well-being.



construct an elaborate persona, complete with photographs and a compelling backstory. These scammers then engage a senior in conversation, building trust and forming an emotional connection over weeks or even months.

Once scammers have established a relationship, they begin to fabricate crises or financial emergencies, compelling the senior to send money to them. These requests often start small but can escalate quickly.

Additional ways seniors and others can be vigilant is by being leery when someone they do not know or have not met begins professing love or strong feelings very quickly. Scammer's backstories may change over time, and they are often vague about personal information. They often have excuses about why they cannot meet in person or on vide calls.

The consequences of sweetheart scams targeting seniors can be devastating. Education and awareness are crucial, seniors and their families must be informed about the signs of these scams and how to protect themselves. Regular communication between seniors and their loved ones can also serve as a protective measure because it provides an opportunity for seniors to discuss any new relationships and identify potential red flags.

According to 19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea, "You can protect yourself by limiting the amount of personal information you provide. Take it slow. Cut off contact immediately if you begin to suspect the individual may be trying to scam you."

In addition to Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, this presentation is sponsored by Alderman Matt O'Shea, Illinois State Senator Bill Cunningham, and Illinois State Representative Mary Gill and hosted by the Beverly Arts Center.

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Banking Industry Avg. NPS:

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(Qualtrics XM Institute Q3 2023 U.S. Consumer Benchmark Study)

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Newsweek's List of America's Best Banks

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Stepped-Up State Enforcement Dramatically Reduces Expressway Shootings

Thanks to the use of new law enforcement technology and an increase in State Police patrols, shootings on Chicago area expressways have been cut drastically since 2021, according to State Senator Bill Cunningham.

“The deployment of cameras and license plate readers, along with aggressive patrol efforts by the Illinois State Police, have helped drive down the number of shootings on our expressways,” Cunningham said. “While any level of violence is unacceptable and more work needs to be done, significant progress has been made.”

Cunningham has supported numerous legislative efforts in Springfield to increase the number of state troopers and to invest millions of dollars in new technology to help identify vehicles that have been involved in shootings. All expressways in the Chicago area, like the Dan Ryan and Interstate 57, are in the Illinois State Police’s jurisdiction.

In 2021, an all-time record of 109 shooting incidents were reported on Chicago area expressways, 61 of which resulted in an injury to at least one person. Investigators believed that many of those incidents were not random acts of violence, but instead target-

ed attacks by gang members who figured they could quickly strike a rival and drive away without being detected. In many cases, innocent motorists were caught in the crossfire.

But stepped-up efforts by the State Police have paid off. In 2023, the total number of reported shootings incident on expressways fell to 59 and the number of incidents in which someone was injured fell to 18—less than one third of the number of victims in 2021. The reduction of violence has continued in 2024 with a 36 percent decrease in shooting compared to this time last year.

“Year after year, we have seen a decrease in the number of Chicago area expressway shootings,” State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly said in a statement. “This year’s reduction, on top of the decreases we’ve seen over the last two years, shows our tactics to reduce violence on the expressway are having an effect. We will continue to dedicate the resources needed to help keep the public safe.”

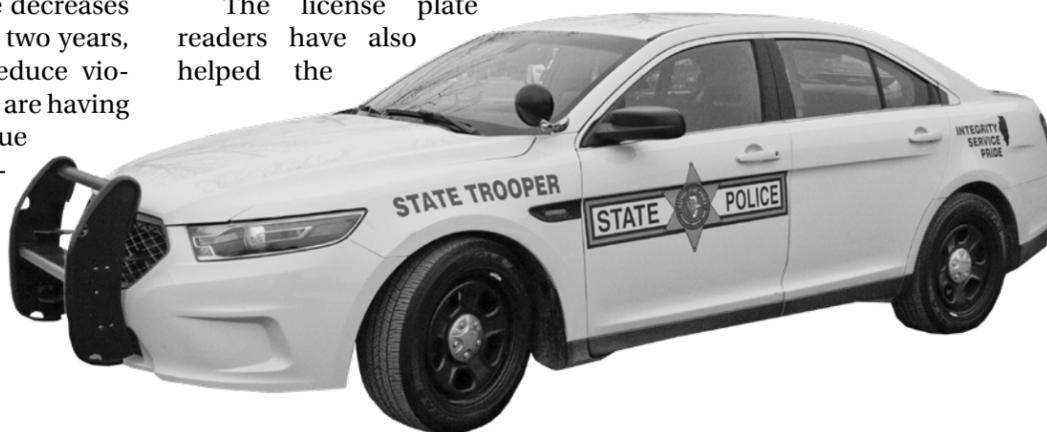
In addition to increasing patrols and deploying additional troopers, the state police created a Special

Operation Group focused on violent crime reduction using additional investigators and enhanced forensic services. In one instance, special agents began an investigation following a shooting stemming from a road rage incident in early June. Agents conducted numerous interviews and reviewed license plate reader photos, which led to the identification of the vehicle and possible suspects. During the investigation, agents obtained several search warrants, conducted surveillance, and collected evidence. Within two days of the shooting, the investigation resulted in one person being charged with two counts of attempted murder, and another being charged with Aggravated Fleeing to Elude and three counts of Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon.

The license plate readers have also helped the

Chicago Police Department track suspects and solve crimes that didn’t occur on the expressways. For instance, the vehicle of a murder suspect who shot and killed a 71-year old man in Chinatown was identified on the Kennedy Expressway by a license plate reader, which led to his arrest an hour after the shooting.

“Solving shooting cases and making quick arrests has the effect of deterring future violence on our expressways,” Cunningham said. “I think the word is getting out to gang members and other would-be criminals: expressways are no longer a place where it is easy to commit a crime and avoid detection. That will make driving on the expressways safer for the rest of us.”



19TH WARD

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP OFF & DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, September 14th
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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BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

BEVERLY DONOR CENTER
 9920 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL

To schedule your donation, visit communityblood.org/donor, click “Donate Now” and search for sponsor code **C055** to locate this blood drive. You may also call (800) 280-4102.

Remember to hydrate.
Know your medication and travel history.
Bring your photo ID.











www.communityblood.org

Open Outcry Under New Ownership

Jim and Katie Beck purchased Open Outcry in May of 2024. The Becks have made several improvements including adding a fully functioning rooftop bar and an expanded taproom bar that will soon include a full menu of spirits and additional beers. They have also made enhancements to the menu that will feature seasonal dishes as

well as an expanded menu. They recently hired a new brewer who they are thrilled to have on board and expanded their brewhouse to make sure they have a larger selection of their own beer on tap. The Becks invite residents of the 19th Ward to stop in as they strive to create a welcoming atmosphere for all to enjoy.



Rosecrance Therapies Prepares for Open House

Founded in 1916, Rosecrance is an integrated network of behavioral health services with a community of 1,400 compassionate professionals supporting more than 50,000 people nation-



wide. They are very excited to host an open house at their new location, 11532 S. Western Avenue on Friday, October 4th from 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. A ribbon cutting will take place at 11 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, September 19
Details & tickets at BAPA.org

BAPA Beverly Area Planning Association **Morgan Park Beverly Hills** BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

19TH WARD

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28, 2024
9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
CROSSWINDS CHURCH
10835 S. PULASKI RD.

Only the following electronic items will be accepted:

- 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

Unfortunately, any item brought that is not on this list will be turned away.

This service is provided free of charge, but is open to 19th Ward residents only.

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ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

7PM - 8PM

With Special Guest:
Commander Brian Kinnane
Chicago Police Department,
22nd District

To register, please visit www.the19thward.com

Co-Sponsored by:

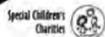
Special Children's Charities and the Chicago Park District to Host the Second Annual Golden Games for Current and Retired Special Needs Athletes Ages 45 and Over

Special Children's Charities (SCC) will host the second annual Golden Games, August 28th and 29th, showcasing athletes with intellectual disabilities aged 45 and above, who compete through various Chicago Park District locations. In all, more than 150 athletes and 66 Chicago Park District coaches will enjoy a great mix of sporting events/skills workshops/and social activities at locations across the city, all in celebration of those that have gone for the gold, silver, and bronze medals throughout the years.

Sporting events include bowling, basketball, adaptive bikes, track and field, flag football, and soccer. Social activities will include a night of dinner and dancing, and a boat ride on the Spirit of Chicago.

All social and sporting activities, including meals and transportation, are fully funded by the Special Children's Charities non-profit organization. All activities are free for participants and coaches.

"Special Children's Charities is



proud to once again fund the Golden Games, which gives our organization the opportunity to really shine the spotlight on our older athletes, many of whom have competed in various programs for people with disabilities, since they were eight years old," said Ray Baker, President of the Board of Directors of SCC. "We are looking forward to the Golden Games and es-

pecially to bringing our athletes together in a way that focuses not only on sports, but social activities where they can gather and enjoy some fun days and evenings together."

For more information, please visit sochicago.org.



Following is a tentative schedule of activities (subject to change):

Wednesday, August 28:

- Bowling – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Waveland Bowl, 3700 N. Western Avenue Chicago
- Lunch Break from activities at 12 p.m.
- Adaptive Bikes and Basketball – 2-4 p.m. at Dunbar Park, 300 E. 31st Street Chicago
- Athlete Showcase and Dinner Dance – 6-9:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 29:

- Track and Field, soccer, Bocce, basketball, and flag football 9-11:30 a.m. at ComEd Recreation Center at Addams Park, 1434 S. Loomis Street Chicago
- Lunch Break from activities at 11 a.m.
- Boat Ride on Spirit of Chicago – 1-3 p.m. (2 p.m. Awards Ceremony and Banquet on the Spirit of Chicago)






I-PASS ON DEMAND EVENT
September 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
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- Existing transponders will continue to work as designed

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- Automatic account replenishments as low as \$4
- I-PASS Assist customers may be eligible to have invoice fees dismissed once enrolled

For questions about this event, call 773-445-8128.







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 & STATE SENATOR
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OFFICE LOCATION: 10400 S Western Ave. • Chicago
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Please note that only deactivated transponders will be accepted. To deactivate, either call the Illinois Tollway at 800-824-7277 *2 to order a sticker for your car. The delivery time will be 2-3 weeks, after which you will need to call the tollway again to deactivate the transponder and receive your \$10 deposit. Alternatively, you can also go to Jewel, pay \$2.50 for your sticker, receive the sticker, and then call the tollway at 800-824-7277 *2 to deactivate the transponder and receive your \$10 deposit.

For more information, please call Rep. Gill's constituent service office at 773-445-8128, or email repmariygill@gmail.com.

95th Street Business Association Announces New Executive Director

The 95th Street Business Association is pleased to announce the hiring of Davia Douglas as the new executive director for the organization. Davia began her position on June 1st after Erin Ross resigned as director to accept a position with Alderman O'Shea's office. The 95th Street Business Association is a resource available to all business owners who operate a business on 95th Street between Ashland and Western Avenues. The association assists business owners with an array of services including help navigating the city licensing process, support with marketing the business corridor, and partnering with the neighboring business associations in the 19th Ward to draw attention to our local business community. The association also offers educational workshops for business owners throughout the year. Having spent the last few years working for the Beverly Area Planning Association as an associate director, Davia hit the ground running and had the benefit of being familiar with many of the 95th Street businesses.

The 95th Street Business Association also operates the 95th Street Farmers Market which op-

erates each Sunday from the first Sunday in May through the last Sunday in October. Davia is focusing on enhancing the market's social media presence to help attract more residents to take advantage of the market.



Currently, the 95th Street Business Association is working in collaboration with 19th Ward Black business owners, BAPA, the Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association, and the Mt. Greenwood Communi-

ty and Business Association on events centered around National Black Business Month which takes place during the month of August. The programming will culminate with a celebration at the 95th Street Farmers Market on Sunday, August 25th. The association is also working with the neighboring business associations to host the annual Tombstone 5K in partnership with local running store, Running Excels. The Tombstone will take place on Saturday, October 19th at 8:30 a.m. at the Mt. Greenwood Cemetery.

For more information about the 95th Street Business Association, please email Davia at director@95thstreetba.org.

Gill Backs Pay Raise for Frontline Caregivers Serving Developmentally Disabled

Health workers delivering critical care to the developmentally disabled will see their wages increase under the state budget plan supported by state Rep. Mary Gill, D-Chicago.

"Our caregivers provide quality, critically-needed work to support individuals who need assistance," Gill said. "Securing funding for an increase in pay is an important step forward to support a profession that is too often overlooked."

The Gill-backed state budget includes an increase in funding that is expected to raise caregiver wages by \$1 per hour starting Jan. 1, 2025. Impacted Direct Support Professionals handle daily living caregiving responsibilities, and serve individuals with disabilities with employment assistance and emo-



tional support. Direct Support Professionals play a critical role in enabling individuals with disabilities to fully participate in their communities, but the profession and care worker field broadly faces worker shortage issues that can limit many from benefitting.

"This increase is helpful, but more work remains," Gill said. "There are shortages in Illinois and across the country when it comes to caregivers, causing excessive waitlists and overtime issues. Let's make it a priority in Illinois to re-

sponsibly support these essential professionals, attract new caregivers and ensure our most vulnerable receive the care and attention they deserve."

For more information, please contact RepMaryGill@gmail.com.

Chicago Health and Aging Project (CHAP)

The Chicago Health and Aging Project is part of the Rush Institute for Healthy Aging, an institute within Rush University Medical Center. CHAP is a major research study examining chronic health problems impacting older people.

The project is funded by the National Institute on Aging to learn more about

the impact of diseases that are prevalent among seniors including difficulty walking, Alzheimer's Disease, strokes, hypertension, heart disease, and others. CHAP has been active in the 19th Ward since 1993 striving to gather valuable information about improving the health and quality of life for older adults. The newest phase of CHAP is studying the impact of COVID-19 on the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social changes brought



to the lives of seniors.

Specially trained interviewers are available to interview seniors in our community to learn about their health. All information is kept confidential and is only used for research purposes. The home in-

terviewers carry picture identification with them so that they

are easily recognized as part of the CHAP team.

To make this project as successful as possible, CHAP needs to interview as many seniors as they can reach. They are particularly interested in seniors who have no health problems. If you are a senior who is willing to participate in the Chicago Health and Aging Project, please contact the team at their Oak Lawn Towers office by calling (773) 239-1200.

19th Ward and Smith Village Team-Up to Present Tech Thursdays



Tech Thursdays, a free, three-week annual series designed to help seniors master the use of their Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, will be held on September 12, 19, and 26 from 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. at Smith Village, 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago.

"Tech Thursdays aim to help seniors stay current with new features as well as the basics in the ever-changing world of digital technology," says 19th Ward Alderman, Matt O'Shea.

According to recent research conducted at New York University, older adults tapping into the digital world could mitigate the negative effects of an aging brain. Researchers, who followed dementia-free adults and their use of the internet for as long as 17 years, found that those who used the internet for two hours or less a day had the lowest risk of dementia. This research includes those who used their smartphones to access the internet.

Seniors can register online at the19thward.com or call the 19th Ward Office at (773) 238-8766 on or before Friday, September 6. Sessions for Apple and Android users will be conducted in separate rooms. Participants must bring

their own Apple and Android devices because a hands-on approach with their own devices will be more relevant and practical, allowing attendees to immediately apply what they learn.

To provide a supportive, interactive environment, Claire DiCola Richards, who founded the marketing firm Amplify 7 in 2013, will lead the Apple sessions. An expert in social media, she will demonstrate how to leverage the tools Apple products offer. Lauren Dowden, director of technology at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School since 2002, will conduct sessions for Android users. Prior to her current role, she was an instructional technology specialist at McAuley.

"Digital literacy provides access to greater independence. In fact, we see more and more Smith Village residents use their smartphones to register for our activities and programs, to make dinner reservations, and to stay in touch with friends and family," says Marti Jatis, Smith Village's executive director.

For all three sessions, Smith Village will provide complimentary valet parking and refreshments for all who attend.

19th Ward Business Owners Engaged for National Black Business Month

August is here, and with it comes National Black Business Month, a time dedicated to celebrating and supporting Black-owned businesses across the United States. In the 19th Ward, this month holds special significance as we recognize and honor the contributions of Black entrepreneurs in our vibrant communities of Beverly, Morgan Park, and Mt. Greenwood.

Black-owned businesses have long been the backbone of economic and cultural growth within our neighborhoods. However, these entrepreneurs have historically faced significant barriers to success, including limited access to capital, resources, and networking opportunities. By highlighting

and supporting these businesses, we help level the playing field, encouraging economic equity, and fostering an environment where all entrepreneurs can thrive. Additionally, these businesses provide unique products and services that reflect our community's rich cultural heritage and diversity.

To mark this important month, the Community Connections Committee, BAPA, and our local business associations have organized events to support and uplift our local Black entrepreneurs. These events provide valuable opportunities for networking, learning, and growth, and we encourage all community members to participate.

The kickoff networking event took place on August 2nd at Sand-

ers BBQ Supply Company. Business owners enjoyed coffee and pastries from Andy Sunflower Café while connecting with fellow business owners. On August 15th the committee hosted a finance and grants workshop with Sacella Smith of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity and Joe McKeown. This workshop provided invaluable insights into securing funding and grants and included a Q & A session to address specific business needs.

Other events planned for the rest of the month include the following:

95th Street Farmer's Market Community Tent Celebration

Black-owned business owners will gather at the 95th Street Farmer's Market Community Tent on Sunday, August 25th to celebrate the success of Black Business Month. This event offers a platform for Black-owned businesses to network, promote their services, and connect with the broader community. Businesses are encouraged to bring promotional materials to share. For more information and to secure a spot, please contact Davia Douglas, executive director of the 95th Street Business Association by emailing: director@95thstreetba.org.

Marketing & Social Media Workshop

The Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association is hosting a Black Business Month Marketing and Social Media Workshop on August 28th from 8:30-10 a.m. at 11125 S. Kedzie Avenue. This workshop will help Black-owned businesses enhance their online presence and marketing strategies. You can find more details and register by visiting MPBHBA's website, mpbhba.org/events.

National Black Business Month honors Black-owned businesses' resilience, creativity, and contributions. By supporting these entrepreneurs, we foster growth, prosperity, and a stronger, more inclusive community. Please help make this August a month to remember by participating in these enriching events and showing our unwavering support for Black businesses in the 19th Ward.

For more details on the events and information explaining how you can get involved, please visit mpbhba.org/events to check out all that the Community Connections Committee is offering and to sign up for this month's events.

Black business owners are also encouraged to list their business in our Black owned business directory.





111th STREET

Wine & Whiskey Walk

THURS, SEPT 26, 2024
6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
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- Paper should be removed from binders and folders with metal hanging rods





For more information, please contact Rep. Gill's constituent service office at 773-445-8128 or RepMaryGill@gmail.com.

Gill Joins Community to Stand Against Hate, Helps in Rededication of Pride Flag

State Rep. Mary Gill, D-Chicago, joined local residents in a stand against hate as the Beverly Unitarian Church rededicated a pride flag display following the destruction of its previous display by vandals earlier in June.

“Our community values inclusion, and we’re not going to tolerate bigoted vandals who operate in hate and violence,” Gill said. “It’s encouraging to see the community rally together in the face of hate and to show our support for those targeted.”

Gill visited Beverly Unitarian Church on June 30 with U.S. Rep. Sean Casten and local residents for a pride flag rededication ceremony. On June 9, someone tore down and burned their pride-related decorations. In response, the congregation chose to reaffirm its welcoming values of fairness and equity by restoring its decorations, arranging a pride celebration and sending a strong public message that it will not be intimidated.

For more information, please contact RepMaryGill@gmail.com.



FORE THE MACS

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AUGUST 22

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Celebrating 30 Years of Hope and Unity: The Ginger Rugai Y-Me Softball Tournament

This year marks a significant milestone for the Ginger Rugai's Y-Me Softball Tournament, as it celebrates its 30th anniversary on August 24th. What started as a humble community event with eight teams playing to initially raise funds for the Y-Me National Breast Cancer organization, has grown exponentially and blossomed into a beacon of hope, unity, and unwavering support for those affected by breast cancer. Last year, 74 teams and over 120 women participated in the annual tournament, raising \$105,000 to exclusively fund breast cancer research.

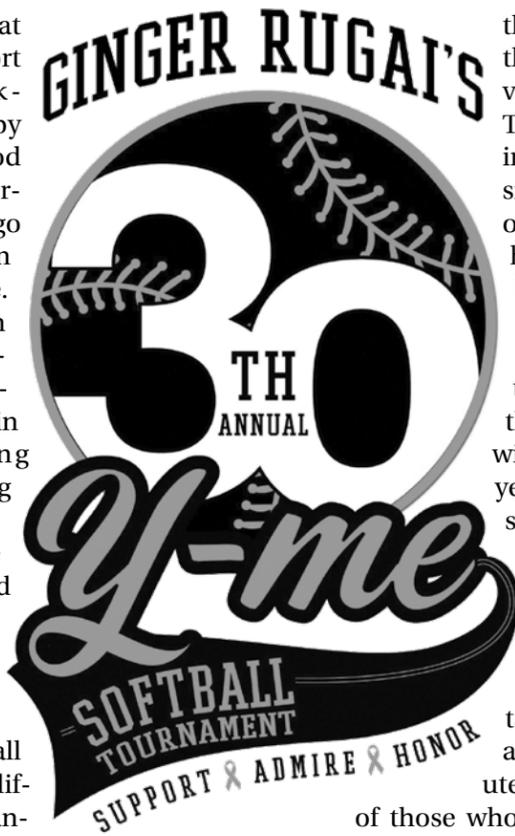
In 1994, Kathy O'Shea founded the tournament on behalf of Ginger Rugai, former 19th Ward Alderwoman and breast cancer survivor, to play softball, raise awareness and support those affected by breast cancer. Thirty years, and more than one million dollars in proceeds later, the tournament will return to St. Christina, Mt. Greenwood Park, Agricultural School and White Sox fields on Saturday, August 24th.

The tournament's impact extends far beyond the softball diamond. Over the past three decades, thanks to the generosity of participants, sponsors, and volunteers, the tournament has raised substan-

tial funds that directly support groundbreaking research by Dr. Kay Macleod from the University of Chicago Medicine – Ben May Institute. This research has led to significant advancements in understanding and treating breast cancer, offering hope to patients and their families.

Over 1500 women will come together to play softball and make a difference, channeling their shared sorrow and frustration into a spirit of community and hope. With seventy-two total teams of players accompanied by their families, friends, and fans, the fields will be filled with high-energy competition and good-hearted fun.

At noon, people gather to watch what many consider to be



the highlight of the day: the Survivor's Game. Two competing teams consisting entirely of women who have battled breast cancer, including Rugai and her daughter, range from those diagnosed within the past year to some who survived up to 40 years ago. Complete with animated play-by-play commentary, the game is a beautiful tribute to the strength

of those who face this ruthless, nondiscriminatory disease.

Reflecting on the tournament's journey, organizers, and participants alike express gratitude for the sense of community it fosters. "It's more than just a game; it's a chance to make a difference," says Judy Stankus, a longtime and original participant. "Knowing that every swing of the bat and every cheer from the sidelines contributes to

something meaningful gives us all a sense of purpose."

This year's anniversary tournament promises to be a celebration of achievements, memories, and the unwavering commitment to the fight against breast cancer. Beyond the thrill of competition, it serves as a reminder of the power of coming together as a community to support a cause greater than ourselves. This annual event has become a symbol of resilience and solidarity.

As we look ahead to the future, the Ginger Rugai's Y-Me Softball Tournament stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of hope and compassion. Here's to 30 years of making a difference – and to many more years of progress and support in the fight against breast cancer.

Let us continue to swing for the fences in the fight against breast cancer, one game at a time.

Together we can change the future.

To donate, register to play, read survivor stories, purchase a Big Hit Raffle ticket, or learn more, visit y-mesoftball.com. Please join the event on August 24th at 111th Street and Central Park. Please email tournament organizers at ymesoftball@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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Cunningham, Gill Pass Bill to Stop Predatory Auto Towing Companies

A new measure sponsored by State Senator Bill Cunningham and State Representative Mary Gill will protect vehicle owners by cracking down on rogue towing companies.

The legislation was enacted in response to a Mt. Greenwood resident who was forced to pay hundreds of dollars in towing and storage fees after her car was stolen from her apartment building parking lot. The car was located a short time later by law enforcement in Alsip where it had been abandoned

on a residential street. The Alsip Police Department called a private towing company to remove the vehicle.

Despite having reported her vehicle stolen and filing a police report, the owner was not informed that her vehicle had been recovered until more than a week later when she received a letter in the mail from the suburban towing company that was holding the car. When she went to recover the vehicle, she was told she would have

to pay towing and storage fees of \$1,500 to get her car back. Additionally, she was told she could not retrieve a hearing aid from the vehicle until the fee was paid. She eventually negotiated a settlement with the towing company and got her car back.

“The more I have learned about the towing industry in Illinois, the more I see that we need to make changes,” said Cunningham. “The measure Representative Gill and I passed will stop towing companies

from charging storage fees when a car is towed after being stolen. It will also make it illegal for towing companies to hold medical devices and other personal belongings hostage to force payment,” noted Cunningham.

The incident also exposed issues with the notification process when a vehicle is stolen and towed. Cunningham and Gill’s new law requires towing companies to provide written notice to the vehicle’s owner within two days of towing. Additionally, if the owner recovers the vehicle within seven days, the towing company will not be able to charge any storage fees. To streamline the notification process, the measure also requires law enforcement to give towing companies the name and mailing address of the vehicle owner when a tow is authorized.

“The rules we are putting in place will give car owners more rights when they go to recover their towed vehicle,” said Gill. These protections are long overdue, particularly when the car has been towed by no fault of the owner – such as when it’s been stolen. We can’t allow the system to re-victimize people who have already been victimized by auto theft.”



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& STATE SEN. BILL CUNNINGHAM FOR




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Tombstone 5K Returns to Mt. Greenwood Cemetery on Saturday, October 19th

The annual Tombstone 5K is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th. The event is sponsored by local running store, Running Excels, the 95th Street Business Association, the Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association, and the Mt. Greenwood Community and Business Association. The run/walk begins at 8:30 a.m. and takes place on the grounds of Mt. Greenwood Cemetery, 2900 W. 111th Street.

This family friendly 5K walk and run is enjoyed by hundreds of runners/walkers each year. Participants are encouraged to come in costume. Some of our local business owners will join in the festivi-

ties and be present on race day. To register for the event, please visit raceroster.com/events/2024/92242/tombstone-5k. We look forward to seeing you on October 19th.





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Caregiver helps two generations of women

Twenty six years ago, Smith Village resident Noreen McGee said to her mother's caregiver Althea Afflick, a C.N.A. at Washington and Jane Smith Home, "If you see a handsome guy walking around here, that's my son. Treat him very well."

Since she uttered those words, McGee has become a grandmother to 15, her mother Helen O'Connor has passed on, and she herself is now cared for by Afflick in her assisted living apartment at Smith Village.

That "handsome guy" is Kevin McGee, now president and CEO of Smith Senior Living, which sponsors both Smith Village and its Orland Park sister community Smith Crossing.

"This is my first and only job as a C.N.A.," said Afflick as she recounted her 30-year history at Smith Village in her Jamaican lilt. "It was a little harder back then. We didn't have all of the equipment or devices we have today to help us lift residents or arrange ways to help them be independent," said Afflick.

"I like the atmosphere and camaraderie with the other staff members, and the residents are really nice. Because I arrived from another country, I always have appreciated the kind people at Smith," said Afflick. "In addition to living nearby, I really, really enjoy working at Smith Village."

Smith Village has changed and grown considerably since Afflick joined the staff. It completed a \$68 million redevelopment of its historic site in the mid-2000s, another \$23 million modernization of the wing for short-term stay rehab and skilled nursing care was completed in 2021, and the numbers of staff and residents have grown considerably.

Other things have changed as well. The administration is doing more to help the staff with classes and refresher courses and the residents are physically healthier.

When Noreen McGee moved to assisted living from her independent living apartment earlier this year, she was pleased to find that Althea would be one of her caregivers. "It was great for me," said Noreen. "We are friends. I can tease her," said McGee. "She's very good to me."

"She is very popular," said Afflick of McGee. "People say, 'Hi Noreen,' and they to stop and talk with her. She knows everybody."

She added, "Noreen is a very independent woman. She's not a fussy lady. And she's interesting;

she's fun. She asks about Jamaica. We talk about anything—from politics to the weather." And then Afflick confided she doesn't care for Noreen McGee's favorite author, Stephen King.

"This place should remain the same," continued Afflick as she opined about Smith Village's future. "It's like home. Most people know each other. It's like a family."

For more information about Smith Village, 2320 West 113th Place in the 19th Ward, please visit Smith-Village.org or call 773-474-7300.



Althea Afflick and Noreen McGee. Photo by Marc Monaghan

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Questions?

-  Sen. Cunningham's Office
joan@billcunningham.com
-  Rep. Gill's Office
megan.repmarygill@gmail.com
-  Rep. Burke's Office
jedi@kellyburkerep36.org



SUPPORT 19TH WARD BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES

Join us to celebrate Black entrepreneurs in our community! August is National Black Owned Business Month, with special events to promote & support businesses, plus an online directory that highlights Black owned businesses in the 19th Ward.

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Across the suburbs of Chicago, Joey's has become a household name and is synonymous with great service and high quality food. Established in 2016 by two industry veterans, the Joey's group of restaurants and food trucks are your old-school Chicago establishments that offer customers a taste of the old neighborhood and bring them back to the tastes, sites, and sounds of their childhood. Joey's is known across Chicagoland for providing exceptional service, family friendly prices, and a consistent experience across their entire brand. When visiting one of the many Chicago-area locations offering Vienna Beef products or homemade Italian specialties, Chicago style pizza, or homemade Gelato, you are guaranteed to find high quality food coupled with high quality service that keeps customers coming back day after day. Customers don't visit Joey's just to eat, they visit Joey's to have a dining experience that is "Just like the Old Neighborhood"!



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New Mercy Circle resident Margaret Carroll shares her storied career at the Chicago Tribune

After retiring from the Chicago Tribune in 2000, Margaret Carroll moved in with her sister, bought a piano and took lessons. She and her sister also travelled.

In late July, she moved into Mercy Circle from her condo in Oak Lawn." She hadn't finished unpacking nor had she found the right place to put everything. There was a framed pastel drawing of nine of her 10 great-grand nieces and nephews resting against the wall. Nearby sat three stuffed toy dogs on the floor. "While I was packing, I made a lot of choices. Apparently, I did not make enough," she said with a chuckle looking at the boxes to empty.

One of her favorite interviews was with Ray Rayner, host of a WGN-TV children's show. "He got us up in the morning," she recalled because she remembered watching the show as a young adult. "He had a duck named Chelveston, always nipping at his ankles," she said with a smile. "He was a very cordial person, and easy to talk to," she added.

Carroll was raised in Chicago's Brainerd neighborhood, within walking distance of Longwood Academy, where she attended high school, and her father's store, Carroll Hardware. "I worked in the store as little as possible," she explained, "just going in to ask for a quarter

and then walking to the dime store to read 50 comic books before buying one."

Reading became Carroll's lifelong interest; currently, one of her favorite books is The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese.

Carroll interviewed authors and celebrities for the Tribune's features department for close to 26 years. Among other favorites were the actress Helen Hayes and the heiress Gloria Vanderbilt. She also sepa-

rately interviewed Vanderbilt's husband Wyatt Cooper.

Vanderbilt took her "through the whole custody saga of her young life," said Carroll, referring to the 1934 legal and tabloid battle between Vanderbilt's mother and aunt over her guardianship.

Carroll asked Cooper, "Wasn't Gloria Vanderbilt kind of intimidating to you?" He responded, "No, once you got to know her, she wasn't a Vanderbilt. She was just someone you knew and liked,"

said Carroll.

During her early retirement, Carroll kept herself busy reading and watching sports. She likes football—"It's athletic ballet!" and dislikes boxing. "I don't see the point, two men or women punching each other." She continued to volunteer as alumnae association president of The Academy of Our Lady (Longwood Academy), a position she has held continuously since 1971.

"I decided to move to Mercy Circle because I wasn't coping well with my condo," said Carroll. "There was a flight of stairs. I had not fallen, but my family worried that I would," said Carroll. "I had been at Mercy Circle once. And I knew it was a lovely place. So I thought, 'This is the place for me,'" she added.

"Everyone is very friendly and cordial. Sister Marion Johnson and Sister Margaret Brennan have been especially solicitous," she said. "Getting settled has been overall a pleasant experience. I've met wonderful people. And, if I have an issue with anything, it's solved as quickly as humanly possible."

For more information or to schedule a private appointment at Mercy Circle, 3659 West 99th Street in the 19th Ward, please call 773-253-3600 or visit MercyCircle.org.



Photo by Marc Monaghan

Need to Renew?

THE ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Village of Evergreen Park Community Center
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Hosted by Mayor Kelly Burke, Senator Bill Cunningham and Representative Mary Gill. All appointments must be made in advance via email - skerwin@evpkadm.org

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For more information, call Senator Cunningham's office at **(773) 445-8128**.



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19th Ward Seeks Election Judges

The Chicago Board of Elections is seeking individuals to serve as election judges for the Presidential General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Election judges administer election procedures in polling places and ensure that voters' rights are protected and respected on Election Day. Election judges receive pay for their service and are the officials responsible for the conduct of the election in the polling place. Responsibilities include opening the polling place and setting up the voting equipment by 5 a.m. on Election Day; conducting a fair, impartial and secure election in the polling place; and tabulating the vote totals for the precinct and transmitting the results to Election central after the polls close at 7 p.m.

"Election judges serve an important role in our democratic process, by ensuring an unbiased and uncompromised voting location," said Alderman O'Shea. "Being an election judge

is a great way for people to meet residents of their community and take an active role in the election process."

Among the requirements to become an election judge, individuals must:

- be a US citizen
- be a registered voter in Cook County (if 18 or older)
- be able to speak, read, and write in English
- committeepersons, precinct captains, or candidates cannot serve as a judge
- confirm that you are not a registered sex offender anywhere in the US and have not committed a crime that would

require you to register as a sex offender in the US

Election judges can earn anywhere from \$170-\$230 for their service. Payment is based on completion of training and service on Election Day. For more information, please visit chicagoelections.gov.



Election Information for the Presidential General Election

Tuesday, November 4, 2024, is Illinois' Presidential General Election. The polls will be open from 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. The ballot will include federal offices including the President of the United States, Senators, Representatives, and Congresspersons. Cook County offices including State's Attorney, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner, several judges and more. Please make sure your voice is heard by voting. All voters are eligible to participate in the election via early voting, voting by mail, or voting on election day. To apply to vote by mail, please visit chicagoelections.gov or stop by the 19th Ward Office, 10400 S. Western Ave. to pick up a

paper application. Vote by mail applications must be submitted no later than 5 days prior to any election.

Upon receiving your completed application, the Chicago Board of Elections will mail you a ballot with return instructions. All vote by mail ballots need to be post marked on or before Tuesday, November 5th to be counted. Please note, ballots cast in early voting or vote by mail are final. Voters may not return to amend, change, or undo a ballot for any reason. Please direct questions to chicagoelections.gov or call (312) 269-7967.

We will provide information about early voting once we receive it.





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Costumes encouraged



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