

Register Now for The Beverly Hills Turkey Trot 5K Presented by CIBC - A Thanksgiving Family Tradition

The Beverly Hills Turkey Trot 5K Run and Family Walk, presented by CIBC, returns to the 19th Ward community on Saturday, November 29th, beginning at 9 a.m. at 9200 S. Hamilton Avenue. Now in its 17th year, this annual family tradition is one of the most anticipated events in the area, with over 2,500 participants expected to run or walk the beautiful tree-lined streets of the historic North Beverly neighborhood. 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 and levels can register now for the 5K Run or Walk, Team registration, or the untimed Family Walk, by visiting the19th Ward www.19thwardmobile. com. Participants will receive a long-sleeved t-shirt unless they registered by October 31st and selected to receive a hooded sweatshirt. All participants who register by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26th will receive a Beverly Hills Turkey Trot longsleeved event t-shirt.

Registration Fees:

- **5K Run Adult:** \$35 until 7 p.m. on Nov. 28th in-person, then \$40 on Nov. 29th
- 5K Run Youth: \$30 until 7 p.m. on Nov. 28th in-person, then \$35 on Nov. 29th



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2025

- 5K Walk Individual: \$35 until 7 p.m. on Nov. 28th in-person, then \$40 on Nov. 29th
- 5K Walk Family (limit 4 shirts and one race bag): \$80 until 7 p.m. on Nov. 28th in person, then \$85 on Nov. 29th

*Please note that family pricing is $listed \, under \, the \, 5KWalk-Individual.$ After you select "sign-up," you will be taken to the registration page. Please go to the bottom of the page where it reads Multi-Person Pricing and select Family Registration.

Online registration will close on Wednesday, Nov. 26th at 5 p.m. In-person registration will be available on the day of the race.

The 5K will be chip-timed on

a CARA certified 5K course, while the family walk will be untimed. Runners will be divided by age and gender according to CARA recommended guidelines with awards given for each age group.

Packet Pick-Up Dates & Locations:

- Saturday, November 22nd: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at CIBC 3040 W. 111th Street
- Monday, November 24th 1-5 p.m. at CIBC 3040 W. 111th Street
- Friday, November 28th 1-7 p.m. at Running Excels 10328 S. Western Avenue
- Saturday, November 29th 7 – 8:30 a.m. on Race Day in Christ the King gym

We are excited to host the 17th annual Beverly Hills Turkey Trot and welcoming everyone to this wonderful event," explained Matt O'Shea, 19th Ward Alderman and founder of the 19th Ward Youth and Community Foundation. "This event is a special part of Thanksgiving weekend for our community and a great way to raise funds for two organizations that contribute so much to our neighborhood," O'Shea said. The 19th Ward and the Original Pancake House - Beverly will host a pancake breakfast immediately following the race at 10:30 a.m. Admission is \$5 per person or \$25 for a family. The John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, also known as Live Like John, is one of the beneficiaries of this year's

For more information on the 17th Annual Beverly Hills Turkey Trot 5K, please visit the 19th Ward website, www.19thwardmobile.com.



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MT. GREENWOOD Community Food Drive benefitting Pat's Pantry

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10

12:00pm - 3:00pm

Mt. Greenwood **Community Church** 3509 W. 111th Street, Chicago

PAT'S PANTRY

No Contact Drive Up Service Available

Pat's Pantry is a food pantry operated in collaboration with the Mt. Greenwood Community Church in memory of Patrick Turney.

We are collecting non-perishable and toiletry items.

The most commonly needed items include:

- Applesauce
- Boxed Oatmeal
- Canned Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Canned Stew

- Canned Tomatoes
- Canned Tuna
- Cooking Oil
- Jelly/Jam
- Nuts

- Pasta/Pasta Sauce
- Rice
- Canned VegetablesBandages
 - Deodorant
 - Feminine Products
 - Kleenex

- Paper Towels
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Toothbrush/paste
- Grocery Gift Cards

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

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

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

The Mt. Greenwood Community Food Drive is sponsored by:









www.MtGreenwoodFoodPantry.wordpress.com

CAPS Meeting Calendar

Sector 1

BEATS 2211 & 2212

First Thursday of the month @ 6pm Feb, March, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct 22nd District Police Station 1900 W. Monterey Ave.

Zoom.us

ID: 896 6029 3972 Passcode: 842356 **Call in:** (312) 626-6799

BEAT 2213

Second Thursday of the month @ 6pm Feb, March, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct Ridge Park, 9625 S. Longwood Dr.

Zoom.us

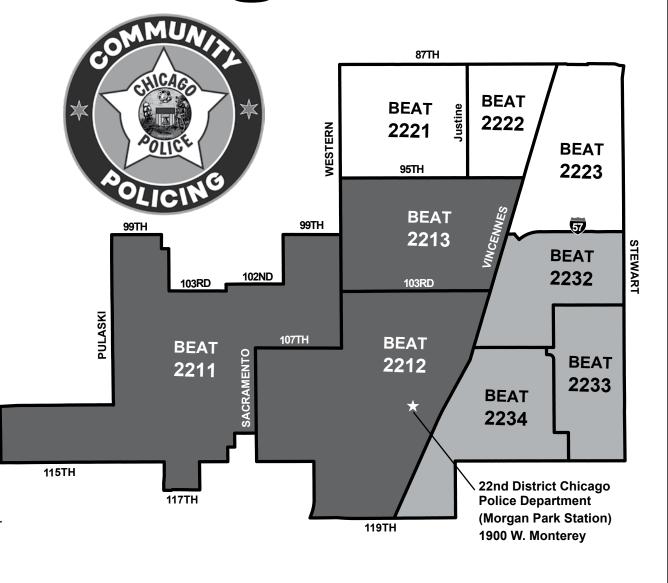
ID: 862 9675 4520 Passcode: 251268 Call in: (312) 626-6799

BEAT 2221

First Tuesday of the month @ 6pm Feb, March, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct Christ the King Parish, 9235 S. Hamilton Ave.

Zoom.us

ID: 882 1826 1822 Passcode: 569965 Call in: (312) 626-6799



Sector 2





Driver's License & State ID Cards - Standard & REAL ID (First time, Renewal, Duplicate, Corrected)

Vehicle Registration / License Plate Stickers

For a full list of acceptable documents visit ILSOS.gov

Friday, December 5th Apollo Recreation Center 12521 S. Kostner Avenue

Appointments are from 10am-2pm. An appointment is **REQUIRED** and can be made by emailing megan.repmarygill@gmail.com or calling 773-445-8128.



Alexi Giannoulias



IL State Representative Mary Gill



Bill Cunningham



Sector 3



10 A.M. - NOON

DISTRICT OFFICE 10402 S. WESTERN, CHICAGO

Please join Senator Cunningham and Representative Gill for a complimentary cup of coffee, donuts and conversation on how to improve the lives of Illinois veterans.



REGISTRATION IS PREFERRED.

For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Fran Hurley at (773) 238-8776 or Fran@SenatorBillCunningham.com

Misericordia's Christmas Pop-Up Shop Moves to Smith Village

Thanks to 19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea's sponsorship, the annual Misericordia Christmas Pop-Up Shop will be hosted this year at Smith Village on Friday and Saturday, November 21st and 22nd. The sale runs from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday and from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday. Shoppers are encouraged to take advantage of complimentary valet parking at the main entrance of Smith Village, 2320 W. 113th Place in Chicago.

Popular favorites made by Misericordia residents, who work in Hearts & Flour Bakery, include large loaves of Irish Soda Bread and small loaves of several kinds of breads as well as nearly a dozen varieties of cookies fresh from the oven. Perfect hostess gifts are tins of heart-shaped brownies and fudge - also available in smaller packages, along with pretzel trees and peppermint bark in two sizes. Those seeking delicious glutenfree treats can count on flourless chocolate pecan cookies, toffee and spiced pecans, while Caramel Corn Crunch and Cajun Crunch will satisfy even a vegan's sweet tooth. Prices for bakery items range from \$6 and \$10 from \$20 to \$45.

Christmas cards feature new artwork by residents, as well as notecards and square presentation plates that showcase residents' paintings that were exhibited in May of this year for "The Artist in All" at The Art Institute of Chicago.

From Heartstrings Gift Shop, shoppers can expect to see all-new items including wickless candles and candles in a tin, both with resident's a artwork on top. **Thymes Popular** candles Christmas add to the mix. Prices range from \$10 to \$35 for

to \$78.

Anticipate the 47th annual South Side Irish Parade with shamrock unisex hats as

> well as quarter-zip jackets for men and women. MISbranded Peter Millar golf shirts, quilted vests and golf gear range in price from \$125 to \$245.

"We are delighted to bring a bit of Misericordia

year," says Matt O'Shea. "Buying at this Christmas Pop-Up Shop is one way our community supports Misericordia's mission and ability to provide so many residents jobs paid at market rate. This is a win-win opportunity. Shoppers purchase delicious handmade bakery items and beautiful gifts, and Misericordia residents share their talents."

To volunteer to work at this two-day sale, please call (312) 622-3999.





stocking stuffers; clothing from \$35

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Gill Recognized as Legislative Champion for First Responders by 100 Club

State Representative Mary Gill was named a Legislative Champion for first responders

and their families by the 100 Club of Chicago, recognizing her efforts to provide police officers and firefighters with the resources they need on the job and at home.

"I am honored to receive this award," Gill said. "Every day

our first responders go out and sacrifice their time and well-being to make our communities safe, and it has been one of my top priorities to provide them the support they deserve. While I am beyond thankful to receive this award, it is our first responders who deserve our true thanks."

Gill has advocated several pieces of legislation for first responders throughout her tenure.

> Within the past year, Gill has had several measures signed into law that advocate additional funding for fire and ambulance vehicles. Most recently, she worked with Club 100 to pass a resolution marking August 27, 2025, as 'Hero Day' in

Illinois.

The 100 Club of Illinois provides resources, financial support, access to training and moral support to both the families of first responders killed in the line of duty and active duty first responders throughout the state. For more information, please visit www.100clubil.org.



Alderman O'Shea to Host Annual Used **Children's Book Drive**

Once again, this December, Alderman Matt O'Shea is hosting

a used children's book drive in partnership with Bernie's Book Bank, a non-profit organization with a mission to distribute quality ownership

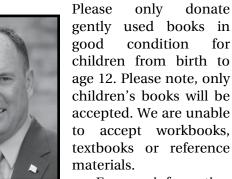
children's books to increase book among children underserved throughout Chicagoland. Beginning on Monday, December 1st, residents are asked to drop books off at the 19th Ward Office, 10400 S. Western

Avenue. The last day to drop off books is Friday, December 12th.

The most frequently requested books include Little Golden Books,

Don't Let the Pigeon, **BERNIE'S** Who Is/Who Was, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Captain Underpants, Judy BANK Moody, and Percy Jackson.

donate



Formoreinformation

about Bernie's Book Bank, please visit www.berniesbookbank.org

Citizen Utility Board Hosts Virtual Presentation for Home Energy Savings & Internet Options and Data Privacy: What You Need to Know

Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, State Representative Mary Gill, and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) will host two virtual presentations on Tuesday, December 2nd, from 6-7 p.m., and Thursday, December 4th from 1-2 p.m. These webinars are free. To reserve your spot, please visit www.19thwardmobile.com.

Home Energy Savings & Internet Options and Data Privacy: What You Need to Know

- Tuesday, Dec. 2nd 6:00 pm - 7:00 pmhttps://tinyurl.com/cubworkshop1
- Thursday, Dec. 4th 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm https://tinyurl.com/cubworkshop2

Are you concerned about the rise in utility prices and online security? Join CUB for information about how to reduce your energy usage and avoid online scams. This event is designed to help you better understand the

ins and outs of your bill, avoid utility scams, and learn about programs designed to save you money and energy. Additionally, you will learn how to protect your privacy online against trending internet scams and discover service options. Stay safe and informed in this digital world!

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

Home Energy Savings + Internet Options and Data Privacy: What you need to know

Join CUB, Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, and Representative Mary Gill for a webinar on how to lower utility costs, understand your bill, and avoid scams. Plus, you'll learn how to protect your privacy online against trending internet scams, and discover service options!



Tuesday, December 2nd 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM



Thursday, December 4th 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM



DEC. 2ND REGISTRATION: <u>HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CUBWORKSHOP1</u>

DEC. 4TH REGISTRATION: HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CUBWORKSHOP2









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

> SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. **CROSSWINDS CHURCH** 10835 S. PULASKI RD.

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

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

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UNN¶NGHAM







County Fair Joins Senator Cunningham and Representative Gill in Beverly Arts Center Fundraising Drive

The Beverly Arts Center (BAC) announced that it has received a gift from County Fair Foods and the Baffes family for \$50,000. This donation represents part of a match program for a recent \$250,000 discretionary state grant to the BAC from Illinois Senator Bill Cunningham and State Representative Mary Gill.

This latest donation continues a trend of support to the arts center, whose mainstage theater was renamed in honor of the Baffes family in 2014. "We have always been interested in supporting the Beverly Arts Center," said Tom Baffes, President of County Fair Foods. "This was a great opportunity for us to start to get the ball rolling, and hopefully people in the neighborhood follow so we can continue to raise these critical funds. This will help the BAC get on more solid footing."

The fundraising drive is part of a two-prong approach to address the needs of the BAC's 20-year-old building, as well as allow the BAC to continue to thrive as a hub for arts and entertainment in the 19th Ward and beyond.

"We are so grateful for the support of the Baffes family, Senator Cunningham, Representative Gill and others throughout the community for their tireless dedication to the BAC and its mission," said Dr. Carla Carter, Executive Director of the BAC. "Since our building opened in 2003, we have welcomed tens of thousands of people through our doors for education, entertainment and the opportunity to create art, for the joy of art. Yet as with any well-used space, we have necessary upgrades and building maintenance that must be addressed. We also believe that the arts and arts education are more important than ever, even as support for many of these programs has been more difficult to secure. These gifts represent the beginning of our drive to continue to serve as a vital space on the south side of Chicago."

The \$250,000 state grant will be dedicated to physical upgrades and repairs, and the \$50,000 gift from the Baffes family, as well as the remaining \$200,000 the center plans to raise, will allow the BAC to maintain and expand its offerings at the BAC, its School for the ARTS (SOFA) education for artists of all ages and to Chicago Public Schools and other organizations through its School Partnership Program.

To learn more and to be part of the campaign, please visit www. beverlyartscenter.org.





Gill Recognized as Legislator of the Year by Illinois Alzheimer's Association

State Representative Mary Gill was named the Legislator of the year by the Illinois Alzheimer's Association for her determination to support people with Alzheimer's Disease by championing legislation that provides treatment for Alzheimer's Disease.

"Across the state, people are suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, and they deserve quality care without having to worry about the price," Gill said. "While I am honored to have received this award, I am even more thankful to know that I am helping people afford life-saving care during their battle with Alzheimer's Disease."

Gill spearheaded legislation

that will expand Illinoisans' access to Alzheimer's treatments. The law will require that all state-regulated insurance plans cover treatments focused on slowing the progression of Alzheimer's Disease.

The Alzheimer's Association is focused on providing life-saving care and support to people with Alzheimer's Disease and all other types of dementia. They are the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research and host researchers from across the county as they work to find treatments and eventually a cure. To learn more about Alzheimer's Association, visit www.alz.org.





City of Chicago Expands Food Scrap Drop-Off Program to 13 New Library Locations

The City of Chicago launched a Food Scrap Drop-Off Program in October of 2023. Since that time, the program has experienced strong participation with more than 7,400 households signed up and over one million pounds of food waste diverted from landfills to composting. In response to this, the city has started a new phase of the program placing drop-off sites outside of neighborhood libraries.

The Department of Streets and Sanitation is partnering with the Chicago Public Library system. Commissioner Cole Stallard, Commissioner of Streets and Sanitation explains, "We are excited to partner with CPL in this effort to make composting more accessible for all residents." "It will increase our material diversion rate and help meet goals in the City's climate action plan," added Stallard.

New drop-off locations include:

- Avalon Branch 8148 S. Stony Island Avenue
- Dunning Branch 7455 W. Cornelia Avenue
- Edgebrook Branch 5331 W. Devon Avenue
- Hegewisch Branch 3048 E. 130th Street

- Lincoln Belmont Branch 1659 W. Melrose Street
- Portage-Cragin Branch 5108 W. Belmont Avenue
- Scottsdale Branch 4101 W. 79th Street
- Sherman Park Branch 5440 S. Racine Avenue
- Toman Branch 2708 S. Pulaski Road
- Uptown Branch 929 W. Buena Avenue
- Vodak-East Branch 3710 E. 106th Street
- West Chicago Avenue Branch 4856 W. Chicago Avenue
- Woodson Regional Library 9525 S. Halsted Street

"Chicago Public Library is proud to be a neighborhood destination for climate learning and action," said Commissioner Chris Brown. "At select locations, residents can now participate in composting and pick up a book to learn more about it. Whether it is access to broadband, books or sustainability programs, CPL connects Chicagoans to the knowledge and tools that help build healthier, more resilient communities."

The program is free and open to all Chicago residents. To get started, residents can sign up at www.chi.gov/composting watch a short instructional video. Residents can then start collecting their household food waste and bring it to the green carts at their selected drop-off site as often as needed. Accepted materials include all types of food scraps, including meat, bones, and dairy. Non-food waste is not accepted. DSS collects food waste, and it is transported to a local facility in Chicago where it is processed into nutrient-rich compost.

Keeping food waste out of landfills has significant climate benefits. When food waste and other organic materials decompose in a landfill, methane is produced. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Methane reduction is a key "emergency brake" in the fight against climate change.

For more information about the Food Scrap Drop-Off Program, including a full list of drop-off sites and how to sign up, please visit www.chi.gov/composting.





The Origin Story of the 13th Annual Thanksgiving **Dinner for 19th Ward Seniors**

"Let me explain how a few of our students' quest to learn something new can benefit so many people over time," said Bill Hook, principal of Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

"Thirteen years ago, a couple of animal science students asked me if they could learn how to raise turkeys. So, I asked them, "What do you plan to do with the turkeys once they are grown?" They suggested raffles to benefit our school or donations to food pantries. Then one student proposed starting a new tradition: host a Thanksgiving dinner for senior citizens."

Hook met with 19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea, who immediately endorsed the idea for what has become the school's biggest event of the year. It is also the only annual event that taps the talents of students in all academic departments called pathways and in its special education program, which is the largest in the CPS system.

CHSAS' doors open at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. The annual banquet continues to attract 400 senior citizens from all the neighborhoods in the 19th Ward; each guest pays \$5 and donates non-perishable items

to a food drive that benefits the Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry. This year's Thanksgiving Dinner is already sold out.

Planning starts early in the year, when students in the horticulture pathway plant potatoes after the last frost and set the schedule to plant vegetables and pumpkins - all to be harvested in the fall. Sometime after the 4th of July, 35 poults (young turkeys), each weighing less than a pound, are delivered to the school. Students in the animal science pathway then raise them until they are ready for processing in early November.

During the first semester of each academic year, foodservice students, who are certified in food safety, learn how to prepare a meal. When it comes to cooking for 400 people, they work side-by-side with Executive Chef Michelle Sandifer, who with Sous Chef Isagani (Gani) Alma, supervises the preparation of hundreds of meals a day for Smith Village residents; and with Private Chef Alvin Green. In 2018, Green established Al's Cookie Mixx. an online bakery business, that provides jobs for his youngest son Aiden - who is autistic - as well as other young adults who encounter similar employment challenges.

Behind the scenes, Horse Thief

Hollow owner Neil Byers sponsors the hogs, who contribute to the dressing. Throughout the year, Byers also sponsors cows raised on the school's 40-acre farm and delivers his craft brewery's spent grains to feed the cattle, who end up on the menu at his restaurant. AJ Castillo, Jr., owner of Americano's, joins his crew in the restaurant's kitchen to peel enough spuds to yield 300 pounds of mashed potatoes. Marc Schulman, CEO of Eli's Cheesecake and co-chair of the school's business advisory council, donates dessert to complement pumpkin pies baked by students.

Students in the horticulture program, as well as the agricultural technology mechanics and pathway, collaborate to create centerpieces for all 40 tables set up in the school gymnasium.

Special education students roll the silverware in side napkins, and the place settings are arranged by FFA members, who include students from the agriculture finance and economics and the urban agricultural education pathways, train so they know how to serve dinner to 400 guests.

What makes this annual gathering so special? "Senior citizens in our community make sure Iknowhowkind these studentsare. For example, when they help someone to a table, they talk with them and are vigilant about anticipating what they may need during dinner. Across the board, Chicago AG students genuinely care," said O'Shea. "It is hard to tell who is happier, our students or their guests," adds Hook.





Holiday

URNAME

Open to all 19th Ward Elementary School Students

Register at www.the19thward.com by December 22nd

Players will be grouped by age and randomly assigned teams.

Rosters and schedules will be e-mailed to parents on Monday, December 22nd!

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



19th Ward

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences \$1 per player

December







100 Years of Heroes



BAPA wants to know, WHO IS YOUR HERO?

RECOGNIZE A VETERAN -

yourself or someone you know to be represented at the
Beverly Area Planning Association's
100th Memorial Day Parade.



VETERAN'S NAME, RANK & DATES IN SERVICE

Scan the QR code to complete your nomination, or email BAPA@bapa.org

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After Welcoming Residents to Smith Village Decades Ago, They Now Live There

When people leave their lifelong home to move into a senior living community, they often need time to orient themselves to their new surroundings. But that is not the case for Jeanne Foley or for Dorothy Pustelnikas, longtime friends. Each held management positions at Washington and Jane Smith Home (now transformed into Smith Village) for a combined total of 27 years. Although the buildings are new, being on the same campus where they worked in the 1980s and 90s, the two women feel instantly at home.

Jeanne began working at Smith Village in 1988, after raising a family in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago. She retired from her job as Smith's director of resident services in 2005 and returned, as an independent living resident in 2022, when her husband entered skilled nursing.

"The first day I was here," she recalls, "I was in line for lunch in the Marketplace Café, and someone tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'You helped my mother move here.' I had handled all admissions and social services." Within days, she had met other children of former residents and renewed acquaintances with 30 or so staffers whom she had helped onboard years earlier, including Marti Jatis, now Smith Village's executive director.

The same year, Dorothy also

began to work at Smith Village as director of nursing. Her husband, Tony, had died suddenly in 1982, and with two children in college, she needed the income to cover their tuition. She retired from Smith in 1998, but she and Jeanne never lost touch completely. Dorothy had friends who still worked at Smith and others who eventually moved to Smith Village.

She admits that she "never really thought about growing old," even though she lived in Orland Park in a three-level house with "plenty of stairs." But when she decided to downsize, the decision to move to Smith Village – which she did in mid-October – was an easy one.

Jeanne and Dorothy did not know each other and would likely never have met until they joined the Smith staff. They lived on opposite sides of Chicago, but they bonded as new department heads at Washington and Jane Smith Home, and their friendship has endured throughout the decades since they had retired.

Their careers also took different paths before working for Smith. Jeanne had become a teaching Franciscan nun after college until 1969; Dorothy entered a nursing program after high school and then followed her dentist husband into the Army in the 1960s.

The three of them – Jeanne and her husband Joe along with Dorothy – often traveled together, and memories of many weekend trips and shared meals animate their discussion even now. So do remembrances of their working together at Smith, in the years leading up to its mid-2000s when today's campus was built to serve more residents, along with fun projects like New Year's Eve parties where, says Dorothy, "we set the countdown to end at 8 p.m. to match the resident's schedule."

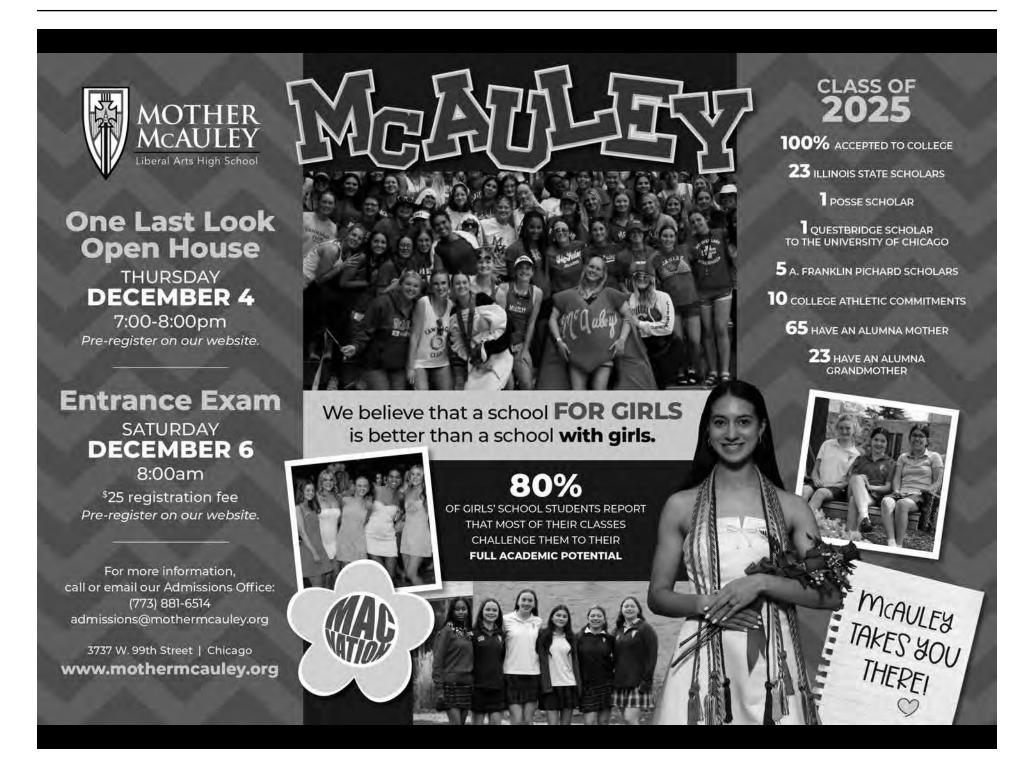
They have enough stories to fill an oral history (or two) about a time of pivotal growth for Smith communities to expand during the 21st century.

Dorothy now lives exactly one floor above Jeanne, and the women joke about learning Morse code so they can communicate with broom handles through Jeanne's ceiling and Dorothy's floor. After nearly 40 years, theirs is a heartwarming friendship that now plays out where it started.

For more information about Smith Village, please visit SmithVillage.org or call (773) 474-7302 to schedule an appointment.



(L to R) Jeanne Foley and Dorothy Pustelnikas catch up on old and new times in the living room at Smith Village. (Photo credit: Marc Monaghan)



95th Street Phase Four of Streetscape

Drawing to a Close

The fourth phase of the 95th Streetscape project is scheduled to conclude in the next few weeks. This phase is the culmination of three previous phases that began at Western Avenue and extended to Wood Street. The scope of work included full width roadway resurfacing, new curb and gutter, new sidewalk with parkway pavers, pedestrian refuge islands, site furnishings including bike racks and waste containers, new shade trees, new decorative street lighting with energy efficient LED lights, light pole community identifiers, in ground sidewalk planters, enhanced stamped crosswalks and ADA ramps, and a new Major Taylor Trail bike lane connection across 95th Street. This project represents an investment of almost \$6 million dollars for 95th Street and our community.







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🗎 🕹 EEOC

Coloring Contest for the Ingersoll-Blackwelder House By: Carol Flynn

The saving of the Ingersoll-Blackwelder House at 10910 S. Prospect Avenue by the late Jack Simmerling in the 1970s was a true preservation success story for the 19th Ward.

The house, with its Italianatestyle back section built in 1874 by merchants John and Harriet Ingersoll, and Queen Anne-style front added in 1877 by insurance executive Issac Blackwelder and his political activist wife Gertrude Boughton Blackwelder, is architecturally unique and one of the most historically significant houses in Morgan Park.

By 1970, however, the house had fallen into disrepair and was headed for demolition. Realizing its historical significance to the community, Jack Simmerling purchased the house, moved his family there, and spent years restoring the house.

Simmerling was an artist, historian, and preservationist who was born in Blue Island in 1935 and grew up on the Ridge. He became known for his art and for saving artifacts from Chicago's grand historic mansions as they were torn down. He established the Heritage Gallery, now on 103rd Street and managed by his daughter Victoria Simmerling.

The restoration of the Ingersoll-Blackwelder House led to its being included as a contributing structure in establishing the Ridge Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

Upon Simmerling's death in 2013, the house was purchased by Beverly resident Sandra Biedron, who continues to preserve the house, and allows it to be used for community events.

Biedron recently decided the time has come to give the Ingersoll-Blackwelder House a makeover.

"We've been doing projects at the house all along, going room by room inside, and doing a few things outside," said Biedron, "but it really needs a full paint job."

The house's current colors of greens and browns, said Biedron, "just seem to blend into the trunks of the trees and the leaf colors maybe a little too much," so the goal is to make the house stand out more but keep within the historical

context of the home.

Biedron said that she and her son, Sebastian Milton, 15, have visited historic districts from the western suburbs to Canada, but they haven't seen any paint schemes yet that inspired them.

They decided to hold a coloring contest for the community, with prizes, to help inspire

the choice of colors the house should be painted.

"We're having the contest for fun to involve the community, and to get people to think about restoring and maintaining old houses," said Biedron. "This is all part of preservation."

The coloring page for the house from the "Color Me Morgan Park" coloring book by artist Judie Anderson and historian Carol Flynn (author of this article) is being used for the contest. The form and directions can be found on the house's website at www. ingersoll-blackwedlerhouse.com, Calumet Paint and Wallpaper at 12120 S. Western Avenue, Steuber Florist and Greenhouse at 2645 W. 111th Street, and the Beverly-Morgan Park History page on Facebook.

Coloring forms can be completed digitally or by hand. Completed forms can be submitted by email, which is preferred, to sgbiedron@gmail.com, or mailed to the Blackwelder House.

Prizes will be awarded in adults (ages 13 and up) and children's categories. For adults, gift certificates from Calumet Paint will be awarded: first place - \$100; second place - \$50; and third place - \$25

For children, the prizes will include the books "Color Me Morgan Park" and "How Old Saint Nicholas Came to Be," authored by Sebastian Milton, and cash prizes: first place - \$50; second place - \$25; and third place - \$10.

Biedron is personally covering the gift certificates and cash prizes, and the authors are donating the books. Biedron is putting together



The Ingersoll-Blackwelder House as it currently exists, photo by C. Flynn



The coloring page for the Ingersoll-Blackwelder House from "Color Me Morgan Park" by artist Judie Anderson

an "anonymous and competent" review group to select the winners.

The deadline for entries was originally set as November 15, 2025, but to allow for this article, Biedron said they would accept submissions for a week or so after that. The winners will be selected by December 15, 20205.

Painting an Older House

Although the owner is not necessarily looking to return to the past other than in spirit, a new look for the Ingersoll-Blackwelder House begs the question of how houses looked back in the late 1800s – early 1900s.

According to Aaron Groff, owner of Groff Painting Company, back in those days, there were a variety of paint colors to choose from, but the paint itself was different back then.

"The paint stores had these giant catalogues around the turn of the 20th century with typically about 200 colors in each palette. The colors tended to be on the muted side, they were not the bright, bright colors we have today, but there were some colors that were more intense than you would expect," said Groff.

"We see the pictures in black and white, but they were not afraid to use color back in the Victorian era, or even earlier than that. It would not be surprising to see some bright yellows or some bright blues, even together," said Groff. "Or dark brown or very dark color trim for higher contrast, creating a very colorful look."

Groff said that back then, there were not giant companies producing paint, there were a lot of small paint stores all creating their own products. And they painted everything with brushes; paint rollers were not invented until the 1940s.

The composition of paint was different then, too.

"They would mix the paint on site with white lead, pigment, and linseed oil," explained Groff. "Some stores had pre-tinted powders they called 'ready mix paints' in boxes, and you would dump the box out in a bucket and mix it with the other ingredients."

The introduction of plastics and latex and acrylic binders, and



An early paint color palette from a Chicago company, from a presentation by A. Groff

the banning of lead, changed the composition of paint.

"There is more consistency in paint now, and it lasts longer. Colors are more stable, there are ratings now for color fastness because certain colors exposed to sunlight will fade faster than others," said Groff.

In the past, they had to rely on hearsay about a certain paint. One painter might mix up a green that looked like the other ones, but it could fade or turn to yellow in five years. Plus, the oil in the paint yellowed with age, as can be seen in old painting, and nothing could be done to stop that.

Groff founded the Groff Painting Company in Beverly in 2004, and his specialization niche is painting older houses; about 95% of his business is with houses at least 50 years old.

He is no stranger to preserving old houses. He and his wife Elizabeth Slomka own one of Beverly's most important historic homes, the William M.R. French House at 9203 Pleasant Avenue, in North Beverly. French was the first director of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the house includes original features designed by French's brother, the famous sculptor, Daniel Chester French. Groff repainted the French house using historic colors.

Groff said the current coloring contest uses a technique that was popular over a hundred years ago. At the paint stores, they would have drawings of homes with five or six different color palettes on them.

He uses a higher-tech process like that himself, a computer model color consultation, when working with clients who have signed on to have his company do the job. He takes a picture of the house, then tries out various color combinations in a "color meeting" with the client.

"We sit and adjust colors together, and it is fun and amazingly effective," said Groff, "because it allows people to see what the house would really look like with the different colors."

Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association Gears Up for Holiday Activities

Small Business Saturday

Small Business Saturday is a nationwide day of shopping at small, local businesses. Celebrated each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Small Business Saturday is a great way to kick off the holiday shopping season. Small businesses are hugely important to the economic health of Beverly/Morgan Park and patronizing them is critical! Originally started as a promotion with American Express, Small Business Saturday has grown into much more. Shop local and shop small this Small Business Saturday on November 29th!

Holiday Bingo

Holiday Bingo begins on November 29th - Small Business Saturday! Play bingo while you shop for the holidays and get a chance to win a Bucks Stay Here gift card. 24 businesses in Beverly/Morgan Park are participating, and a bingo card can be picked up at any participating business. More information can be found at www.mpbhba.org/holiday-bingo.

Holiday Road

Shop, stroll, and sip your way down the Holiday Road on Saturday, December 6th! Enjoy festivities along a stretch of Western Avenue from 99th to 115th Streets as well as at Church 103 in Beverly/Morgan Park. This extended day of shopping and family fun includes lots of holiday activities, free trolley rides, specially priced merchandise, and delicious food and drink. More information is available at www.mpbhba.org/holiday-road.

Holiday Hurrah

Please join the 99th and 103rd Street businesses in Beverly for a festive day of holiday shopping. Family-friendly crafts, shopping for the holidays, a visit from Santa, live music, a caricature artist and face painter, tasty beverages and snacks and more! More information can be found at www. mpbhba.org/holiday-hurrah.

On Western

The Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association and BAPA debuted "On Western," the new go-to guide for everything happening along Western Avenue in Beverly/Morgan Park! From local eats to cannot miss events and neighborhood gems, it is all just a click away. Check it out at www.onwestern.com.

19th Ward Office to Accept Old Holiday Lights

Alderman Matt O'Shea is pleased to announce that the 19th Ward office located at 10400 S. Western Avenue will partner with Reduce Waste Chicago to collect nonworking string lights during the holiday season. Reduce Waste Chicago's Holiday Lights Collection campaign is a citywide initiative that helps residents responsibly recycle nonworking string lights during the holiday season. Broken string lights cannot be placed in Chicago's municipal recycling program due to mechanical and safety hazards. String lights also contain metals, such as copper, which can be reclaimed and reused if recycled

properly. WasteNot Compost is the program's zero-emissions logistics and transportation provider. Using their all-electric fleet, they pick up, store and transport collected lights to their partners at Elgin Recycling.

Since its inception in 2021, the program has diverted more than 10,574 pounds of lights from the landfill. Residents can begin dropping light strands off at the ward office on December 1st. The last day to drop off lights will be Monday, January 26, 2026. For more information about other drop-off locations, please visit www.reducewastechicago.org/holiday-lights.







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Simple ways to bring year round color to your landscape

by Tom Marsan **General Manager** at Beverly Companies

By the time November rolls around, our streets have already turned into a patchwork of orange and gold. The neighborhood glows under the canopy of maples and serviceberries. But once those leaves hit the ground, many yards fade to brown. That's why we often advise people to plan for 4 seasons when designing and installing a landscape. With a few smart plant choices, your outdoor space can stay lively long after the pumpkins are gone.

Chicago's climate can be tough, but it's possible to keep color and interest well into winter. The trick is layering plants that shine in different seasons. Shrubs with berries, trees that hold color, and evergreens that bring structure when everything else is sleeping.

Stretching Fall Color

Some trees and shrubs seem to hoard every last bit of sunshine before winter hits. The sugar maple is one of them. If you have the space, it's hard to beat its classic orange and red display that seems to last longer than everything else on the block. For smaller yards, the ginkgo is a perfect alternative. Its fan shaped leaves turn a bright, uniform gold that looks almost unreal against the gray November

Japanese maples also deserve a spot in the conversation. They bring deep reds and purples and add an elegant touch to front yards and patios. They do best with a little afternoon shade and protection from wind.

Regarding shrubs, there are plenty that pull double duty. Oakleaf hydrangeas are famous for their big white blooms in summer. Then once the chill sets in, their leaves turn a rich burgundy that lasts well into December.



its dark burgundy leaves late into the season and looks great next to ornamental grasses or evergreens.

Fall planting is ideal, but Chicago's weather doesn't always cooperate. Once the ground freezes, it's better to wait until spring. Winter is always a great time to plan where you'll add color next year.

When Winter Arrives

Once the snow starts falling, texture and structure take over where leaf color left off. That's when plants like red twig dogwood step into the spotlight. Its bright

crimson branches look like they were made for snowy backdrops. To keep the color vivid year after year, prune out some of the older stems in early spring to encourage fresh growth.

Winterberry holly is another standout. When its leaves drop, the branches are covered with clusters of red berries that hang on for months. They not only brighten the yard but also give local birds something to snack on. Just remember, winterberry needs both a male and female plant nearby to

produce berries. And of course, evergreens are the steady hands the winter garden. Boxwoods, yews, and spruces keep things green and structured. They're the bones of a good landscape that makes everything

else look intentional. Pair them with ornamental grasses switchgrass or little bluestem, which turn golden and sway beautifully through the cold months. Even when covered in frost, they

add warmth and motion to an otherwise still yard.

Designing for Four Seasons

When planning a year-round landscape, it helps to think in layers. Start with the big trees for height and shade, then add midlevel shrubs for color and texture, and finish with low evergreens or groundcovers for structure.

A combination of deciduous trees, berry-bearing shrubs, and evergreens gives your yard depth and keeps it interesting through all four seasons.

Mass planting also makes a big difference. A single red twig dogwood looks nice, but three or five planted together along a walkway or fence line look purposeful and bold. Repeating the same plant creates rhythm and cohesion, which is something that always reads as good design, even to the casual passerby.

Texture becomes the "color" of winter. The soft needles of pine, the peeling bark of birch, or the feathery seedheads of grasses all catch the light differently. These small details make a winter landscape feel alive, not forgotten.

And don't underestimate the wildlife factor. Plants like serviceberry, winterberry, and crabapple feed birds through the coldest months. Watching cardinals pick at bright red berries in the snow adds a kind of color no paint could match.

Keeping Color Coming Back

Good soil preparation and watering in the first couple of seasons are key to long-term success. Even in fall, young trees and shrubs need consistent moisture to build strong roots before winter sets in. A simple mulch ring of about two or three inches deep helps insulate the roots and keep the ground from drying out. Just make sure you don't pile it against the trunk.

When it comes to pruning, less is more. The goal isn't to shape plants into unnatural forms but to remove dead or damaged branches and encourage healthy new growth. For colorful shrubs like red twig dogwood, cut a few of the oldest stems to the ground each spring so new, brighter ones can take their place.

Finally, be selective with what you plant. Some shrubs that look stunning in fall, like burning bush, are considered invasive in parts of Illinois. Local garden centers can help you find native or noninvasive options that deliver the same fiery color without causing problems.

Color That Carries Through

With a thoughtful mix of trees and shrubs, your yard can be a highlight of the neighborhood long after most gardens have gone gray. A sugar maple for the fall fireworks, a few red twig dogwoods for winter glow, and some evergreens for structure. Together they create a landscape that looks cared for all year long.

Beverly's charm doesn't fade when the leaves drop, and neither should your yard. A little planning now means a landscape that carries its color, texture, and life straight through to spring.





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Chicago Department of Housing Announces 2025-2026 Emergency Heating Repair Program

The Chicago Department of Housing's (DOH) 2025-2026 Emergency Heating Repair Program (EHRP) began on November 1st. EHRP offers income-eligible Chicagoland owner-occupied properties direct assistance to repair or replace their furnace or boiler heating system. Qualified contractors perform the work at no cost to the homeowner with funding provided through DOH. The assistance is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Interested homeowners can apply online. They will complete the pre-qualification questions online. Afterward, their information is transferred through the City's portal. They will receive an email on the same day with a link to proceed with completing the application. Homeowners with an email address can apply online.

Constituents can also receive a paper application via one of the following methods:

- the city's 311 service line
- CHI311 App
- www.chicago.gov/chrp where applicants can complete a service request to apply, and an electronic status letter will be generated for their records
- paper application can be downloaded at www.chicago.gov/hrp and printed out

A homeowner who does not have an email address or access to a computer will need to call 311 to be sent a paper application package by mail. Completed applications can be returned to:

Department of Housing Attn: Emergency Heating Repair Program

121 N. Lasalle, Room 1000, 10th Floor

Chicago, IL 60602

Residents who have questions should contact DOH's customer service department at (312) 744-3653.

2026 Shared Cost Sidewalk Program

Property owners share the cost of sidewalk repair with the City of Chicago under this popular program. Thousands of Chicagoans have participated in this program taking advantage of the low cost, exceptional value, and ease of participation.

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program cost per square charged to property owners is well below what a private contractor would charge. Additional discounts may be available for senior citizens and people with disabilities.

Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. The number of participants is based on the availability of funds. The program typically reaches capacity quickly. You are encouraged to apply early. Please note that if you

previously applied for the program, you must apply again in 2026 if you want to be considered for the 2026 program. Applications will only be accepted through the City's 311 system by calling 311, through the City's service request website, 311.chicago.gov or through the CHI311 mobile app. The property owner's contact information and the property address are required at the time of the request.

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program has not announced the opening day for applications yet. However, we will announce it through our email blast as soon as it becomes available. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact CDOT at (312) 744-1746 or email cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org.





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Beverly Area Planning Association Update

Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer, but it should be celebrated for the real reason we do not go to work that day; to pay tribute to the men and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. This coming Memorial Day, the Beverly Area Planning Association is preparing for the 100th Anniversary of the Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2026. The annual parade takes place immediately following BAPA's annual Ridge Run. Both events end at Ridge Park, located at 9625 S. Longwood Drive.

The parade has long stood as an important and cherished tradition in our community, a tribute to those who gave their lives in defense of our freedom. As we plan this centennial event, we are committed to making it the most special and honorable parade to date, a parade worthy of the brave men and women it remembers.

As part of our planning, the committee is asking for the community's help. We want to honor any veteran living or deceased that is from our community at the parade. We are asking you to send us the Veteran's name, rank and dates of service. If you can include a photo that is also helpful by emailing it to bapa@bapa.org. We are working on the best way to honor our local veterans and will have more

details in the coming months. The first step is to gather the names.

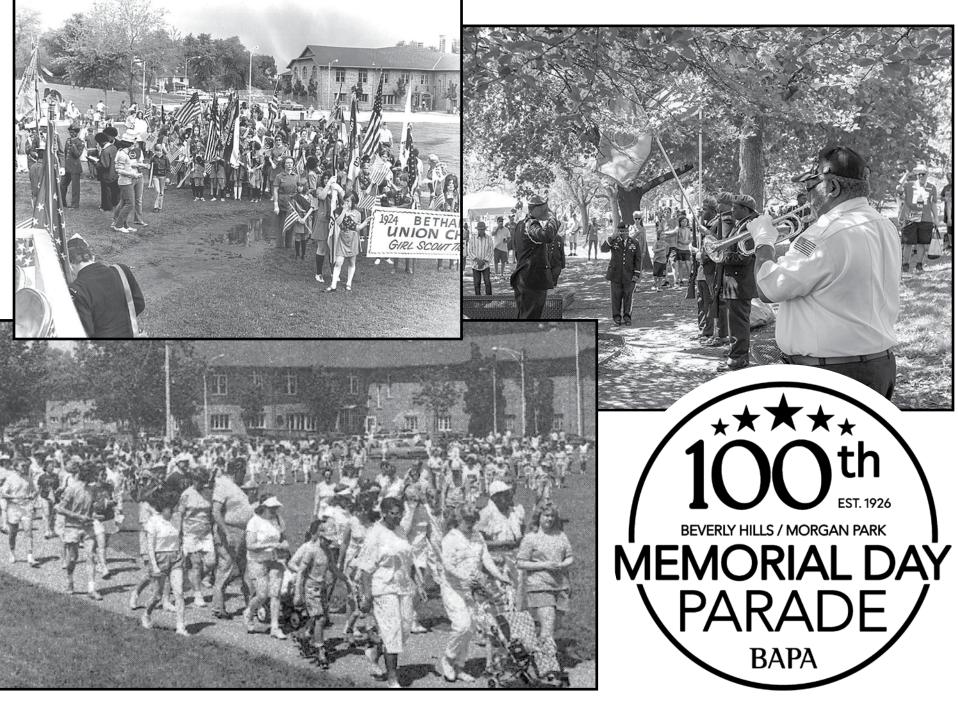
The planning committee is an inspiring group with 5 veterans who are giving more of their time to help plan this momentous event. Thank you to Carol Macola, Elisabeth Pennix, Matthew Krieter, Andrian Morrison, and Grant Jacobson for assisting and guiding us during this planning process. We are also thrilled to have Molly McAlinden and Nora Winters who are part of military families. They are all tapping into their connections to make this extra special.

Additional plans include a 100th Anniversary Beer that will be brewed by Andrian Morrison, Brewer for Horse Thief Hollow and Marine Veteran. It is tentatively planned to be tapped in February at a fundraising event at the restaurant. Commemorative shirts and merchandise are also in the works.

Lastly, the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County has offered to pay for a memorial to be installed at Ridge Park that will honor those who have served in post 9/11 conflicts including Conner Lowry.



The goal is to widen the audience and the participation of the parade. Too many people run the Ridge Run and leave to go home immediately after they finish. We encourage everyone that comes out to stay and watch the parade and take the time to celebrate our 100 years of heroes. If you are interested in assisting with the parade, joining the committee, marching with your group or organization, or want more information, please contact bapa@bapa.org.





Thanksgiving Prompts a Special Expression of Gratitude for Others

Avis Clendenen has provided pastoral care at Mercy Circle since it opened in 2013. She has used Thanksgiving as an opportunity for spiritual (as well as nutritional) enrichment. As Thanksgiving approaches, she encourages residents to share what they are grateful for, with an emphasis on "people and experiences that are animating, nourishing and fulfilling," in her words.

A professor emerita of religious studies at St. Xavier University, and longtime liturgy coordinator at Mercy Circle, Clendenen last year became an independent living resident at the faith-based continuing care community. So, this Thanksgiving as a resident, she looks forward to participating in another Mercy Circle tradition – one that was initiated several years ago by the residents themselves.

"Around this time," she explains, "residents extend an invitation to all the employees for the 'blessing of the hands.' It gives the people who live here the opportunity to bless the hands of those who work here – who use their skills, through their own hands, to care for us throughout the year."

As Clendenen sees it, this practice stems from the fact that

Mercy Circle staff members "see their work as more than a job." It is connected to their own sense of calling, which is the case for many who go into nursing, or because they are called in some other way to the healing ministry. They become genuinely concerned about the people they care for.

"So, this allows residents to express what these staff members mean to them, and that they are grateful that they will be there as they go through the next stages of life. Some people want to make the aging process kind of romantic, but in reality, there are big challenges. When others are caring for you with concern, compassion and dignity, it makes a huge difference."

For Clendenen, the 'blessing of the hands' dovetails with her life's work. With doctorates in theology and psychology, she eventually combined what she learned into the discipline known as practical theology – "where everything links to the human experiences," she said – which informed her courses in ministry and spirituality at St. Xavier, where she taught for more than 35 years.

Clendenen believes that the compassionate and competent care at Mercy Circle could be a valuable model for elder care on a national scale – and that this compassion runs both ways. She recalls how "new staff members can be bemused because residents invite them to sit down so they can ask about their lives."

A former Sister of Mercy, Clendenen also is a respected scholar and author. One of her books, Experiencing Hildegard: Jungian Perspectives – a modern study of the 12th century Benedictine abbess, writer, philosopher, composer, mystic and scientist Hildegard of Bingen – required three printings.

Clendenen continues to lead silent retreats that focus on themes in Hildegard's writing and teaching.

Today, Clendenen continues in her staff position as liturgy coordinator, part of a four-person team providing liturgy and spiritual enrichment at Mercy Circle. Now that she is a resident, her job has left some people wondering where the boundary exists between work and life. To some degree, it comes down to how she dresses. "A few weeks ago," she notes, "someone saw me in jeans and sweats and said, "Ah,now I get it."



Mercy Circle resident Avis Clendenen blesses the hands of Morgan Park resident Colleen O'Rourke, C.N.A., who has cared for skilled nursing care residents for five years. (Photo credit – Marc Monaghan)

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