



Quarterly

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

FEBRUARY 2026

10

WGN Radio

Vest-a-Thon
FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 21, 2026
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Tune into WGN Radio 720 AM
or WGNRadio.com

to participate in this great event!

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

To donate, please visit www.cpdvest.com

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

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

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



SPONSORS:



ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S

GET BEHIND THE VEST PANCAKE BREAKFAST



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd
8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

SAINT JOHN FISHER – KANE HALL
10200 S. Washtenaw Ave., Chicago

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

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

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

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

The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation has paid out more than \$6.4 million dollars to purchase over 14,952 replacement vests for Chicago Police Officers with 1,040 vests supplied in 2025. The initiative is ongoing, and the foundation expects to provide at least 1,000 vests again in 2026.

This event has raised over \$760,000 to date.



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

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19th Ward Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast Returns Sunday, February 22nd with the Fifth Annual Vest-a-Thon Scheduled for Saturday, February 21st

19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea's 12th Annual Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast will take place on Sunday, February 22nd from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at St. John Fisher School in Kane Hall, 10200 S. Washtenaw Avenue. Alderman O'Shea will also team up with WGN-AM Radio's Home Sweet Home Chicago with David Hochberg to host the fifth annual "Vest-a-Thon" on Saturday, February 21st.

Both events benefit the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's Get Behind the Vest initiative which purchases bullet proof vests for Chicago Police officers.

Admission to the Pancake Breakfast is \$5 per person or \$25 for families. This includes all you can eat Original Pancake House – Beverly pancakes and sausage.

This year's WGN Radio Vest-A-Thon will be aired live on WGN-AM/720 AM from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 21st. The Vest-A-Thon features stories from officers whose lives have been impacted by bullet proof vests. Chicago Police officers will share their perspectives on the difficult work they perform every day. Vest-A-Thon donors will have the opportunity to win prizes including sports paraphernalia and more.

Donors can also choose to contribute by visiting cpdvest.com or by calling (872) 262-8378. Please email mattoshea@the19thward.com if you are interested in donating prizes for the Vest-A-Thon.

As Alderman Matt O'Shea explains, "Our goal is to provide our officers with all the possible tools to ensure that they are safe and able to return home to their loved ones at the end of each shift. It is critical that Chicago Police officers have access to equipment with the latest technology. The funds raised through the Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast and related events like the Vest-A-Thon help to make that possible.

Alderman O'Shea's Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast has raised over \$760,000 dollars used to purchase bullet proof vests over the past twelve years. Vests need to be replaced every five years. Chicago Police officers receive a complimentary vest when they join the department. After that they are responsible for purchasing their replacement vests. As of 2025, the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation has spent more than \$6.4 million dollars to purchase over 14,952 replacement vests with 1,040 vests supplied in 2025. The initiative is ongoing, and the foundation expects to provide at least 1,000 vests again in 2026.

Alderman O'Shea is a member of the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's Advisory Board and is part of the Board of Directors for the Chicago Police Chaplains Ministry. He represents the communities of Beverly, Morgan Park, and Mount Greenwood where thousands of first responders live.

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

For more information on Alderman O'Shea's Pancake Breakfast benefiting the Get Behind the Vest initiative or to support this general cause, please call (773) 238-8766 or visit www.the19thward.com.



GET BEHIND THE VEST

NIGHT AT BARRACO'S

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 19**

7 - 9 PM

BARRACO'S
Restaurant, Pizzeria and Catering

3047 W. 111th St.

Join us to help raise funds to support the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's Get Behind the Vest initiative. Lets protect those who protect us.

Featuring Guest Bartenders:

- Alderman Matt O'Shea
- State Rep Mary Gill
- Nick Barraco
- Fr. Dan Brandt

Fill up your tank at Shell Gas Station to Support the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation

February 16th-20th

Shell Gas Station
(Formerly Kean Gas Station)
2632 W. 111th Street

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

Alderman Matt O'Shea will pump gas 1-3 p.m. on Friday, February 20th

THANK YOU TO:

CAPS Meeting Calendar

Beat 2211 1 Thurs@6pm Sister Pat Mahoney Anna Hall		Beat 2221 1 st Tues@6pm		Beat 2232 2 nd Wed@6pm	
ZOOM.US ID: 823 0682 7037 Passcode: 340483 CALL IN: 1 (312) 626-6799	Feb 5 th Mar 5 th April 2 nd	ZOOM.US ID: 827 6839 0009 Passcode: 888729 CALL IN: 1 (312) 626-6799	Feb 3 rd Mar 3 rd Apr 7 th	ZOOM.US ID: 829 7870 5573 Passcode: 556971 CALL IN: 1 (312) 626-6799	Feb 11 th Mar 11 th Apr 8 th
22 nd District Station 1900 W. Monterey	May 7 th June 4 th July 2 nd Aug 6 th Sept 3 rd Oct 1 st	Christ The King Church 9235 South Hamilton	May 5 th June 2 nd July 7 th Aug 4 th Sept 1 st Oct 6 th	ZOOM.US ID: 829 7870 5573 Passcode: 556971 CALL IN: 1 (312) 626-6799	May 13 th June 10 th July 8 th Aug 12 th Sept 9 th Oct 14 th
BEAT 2212 1 st Thurs@6pm		BEAT 2222 3 rd Tues@6pm Maurice Wade Doris Barnes		BEAT 2233 2 nd Wed@6pm	
ZOOM.US ID: 823 0682 7037 Passcode: 340483 CALL IN: 1 (312) 626-6799	Feb 5 th Mar 5 th April 2 nd	ZOOM.US ID: 834 0102 9734 Passcode: 983937 CALL IN: 1 (312) 626-6799	Feb 17 th Mar 17 th Apr 21 st	ZOOM.US ID: 829 7870 5573 Passcode: 556971 CALL IN: 1 (312) 626-6799	Feb 11 th Mar 11 th Apr 8 th
22 nd District Station 1900 W. Monterey	May 7 th June 4 th July 2 nd Aug 6 th Sept 3 rd Oct 1 st	Brainerd Park 1246 West 92 nd	May 19 th June 16 th July 21 st Aug 18 th Sept 15 th Oct 20 th	ZOOM.US ID: 829 7870 5573 Passcode: 556971 CALL IN: 1 (312) 626-6799	May 13 th June 10 th July 8 th Aug 12 th Sept 9 th Oct 14 th
BEAT 2213 2 nd Thurs@6pm Gary Jenkins Sharon Jenkins		BEAT 2223 2 nd Tues@6pm Earl Ware Sharon Snelling		BEAT 2234 3 rd Wed@6pm Ben Farnandis Clarence Taylor	
ZOOM.US ID: 874 7835 7512 Passcode: 434253 CALL IN: 1 (312) 626-6799	Feb 12 th Mar 12 th Apr 9 th	ZOOM.US ID: 872 8452 5745 Passcode: 783543 CALL IN: 1 (312) 626-6799	Feb 10 th Mar 10 th Apr 14 th	ZOOM.US ID: 836 4544 4860 Passcode: 513391 CALL IN: 1 (312) 626-6799	Feb 18 th Mar 18 th Apr 15 th
Ridge Park 9625 South Longwood	May 14 th June 11 th Jul 9 th Aug 13 th Sept 10 th Oct 8 th	Robichaux Park 9247 S. Eggleston	May 12 th June 9 th July 14 th Aug 11 th Sept 8 th Oct 13 th	Beth Eden Church 11121 S Loomis	May 20 th June 17 th July 15 th Aug 19 th Sept 16 th Oct 21 nd

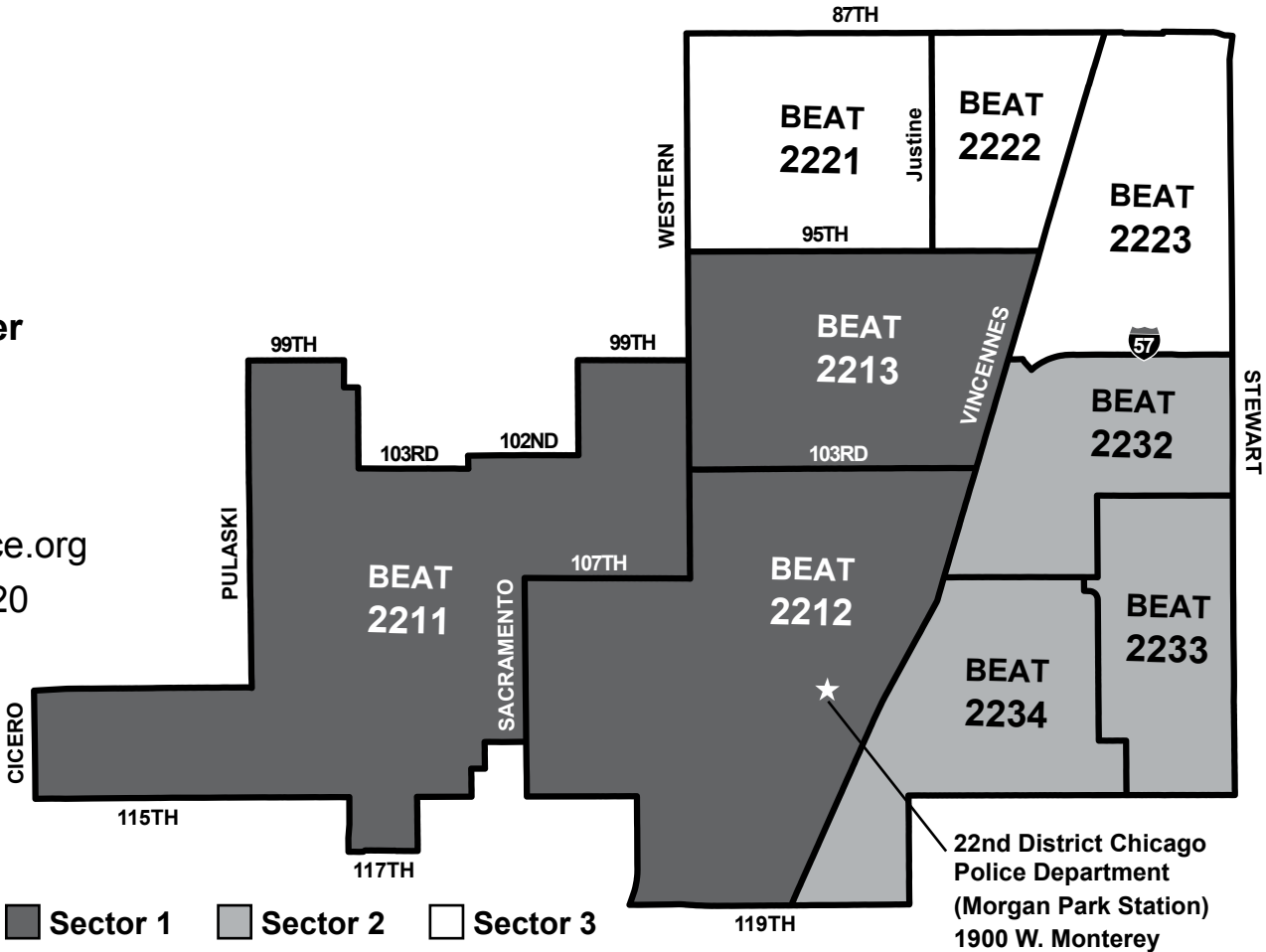
****DATES, TIMES & LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE****



22ND District Commander
Patrick Darling

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www.chicagopolice.org



Fundraiser Set for BAPA’s 100th Anniversary Memorial Day Parade

The Beverly Area Planning Association will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of their Memorial Day Parade. The committee is working hard to make this the most memorable parade to date with a fundraiser set for Thursday, February 26th, from 4-8 p.m. at Horse Thief Hollow, 10426 S. Western Avenue. Andrian Morrison, brewer manager and Sergeant USMC will be tapping a special beer for the event.

BAPA encourages the entire community to come out for to the fundraiser and rally around the efforts to thank our local veterans and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Proceeds from the event will go to offset the costs of the annual pa-



rade and help fund a new memorial for veterans at Ridge Park. The details of the event will be coming soon. Please visit BAPA.org and follow them on social media for more details as the event approaches.

In addition to the fundraiser, the committee is still seeking groups to participate in the parade. BAPA is asking local businesses, schools, bands, scout troops, and families to march down Longwood Drive for this centennial celebration. The parade kicks off at 10:15 a.m. at 110th and Longwood Drive and culminates at Ridge Park.

If you are interested in joining the parade committee or have any questions, please email bapa@bapa.org.



Gill Backs Law to Reduce Home Energy Costs

State Representative Mary Gill passed key legislation to reduce home energy bills, providing both short and long-term relief to Illinois families as they face rising energy costs. “Families across our state are worried every time they receive their energy bills and that should never be the case,” said Gill. “The energy cost reduction that this act provides will give families peace of mind. Starting immediately, families will receive relief on their home energy bills, and it will continue to provide long-term relief far into the future.”


Illinois families have faced rising energy costs as capacity costs continue to rise, and there is an increased demand from data centers. It is estimated that these power demands have resulted in \$9.5 million in increased energy costs. The Clean and Reliable Grid Act (CRGA) was created to help counteract these rising energy costs.

Beginning this year, utility customers in Northern Illinois will receive a monthly Carbon Mitigation Credit, which will reduce home energy costs by up to \$11 every month. In addition to providing customer savings, the CRGA will include major innovations to generate and store energy, and bring down costs even further including:

- **Capturing clean energy:** By capturing and redistributing energy already being produced, including from solar panels, ComEd customers can see immediate relief on monthly costs.
- **Increasing battery storage:** By building out our grid to increase the state’s battery storage, power systems will become more reliable and affordable to power millions of Illinois homes.
- **Investing in energy efficiency programs:** This law will directly expand energy efficiency programs for residents, lowering electricity prices by reducing overall demand.

The law is estimated to create up to 115,000 jobs, counteracting job insecurity and layoffs caused by the federal budget bill, which included 50,000 manufacturing jobs projected to be lost in Illinois. As the year progresses, CRGA will play a significant role in meeting the state’s energy needs, strengthening reliability and helping manage untenable costs for customers for both short-term and long-term relief.

“This relief package puts Illinois residents first,” said Gill. “It’s about putting money back into the pockets of the people. My colleagues and I will continue to fight to make Illinois affordable for all its residents and today was just the beginning.”



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4:30pm - 6:00pm

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Senator Bill Cunningham Delivers Property Tax Relief for Seniors

A property tax relief package long backed by State Senator Bill Cunningham passed the General Assembly and has been signed into law by the governor. Senate Bill 642 raises the income threshold that qualifies residents for the senior citizen’s property tax freeze, which will help thousands of homeowners struggling to pay property taxes on fixed incomes.

“Our seniors have worked hard their entire lives to build stability for themselves and their families,” said Cunningham, a Democrat who represents portions of Chicago and the Southwest Suburbs. “They shouldn’t have to worry about losing their homes because of increasing property taxes. This plan gives older homeowners the relief they need to stay in their communities.”

Senate Bill 642 delivers critical updates to assist seniors. Currently, homeowners qualify for the senior freeze if their household income is under \$65,000. Under the new law, the maximum income limit for the Low-Income Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption will increase substantially over the next several years, beginning at \$75,000 for taxable year 2026, increasing to \$77,000 for taxable year 2027 and settling at \$79,000 for taxable year 2028 and beyond.

To address gentrification issues, it also adds an occupancy requirement stating seniors must have owned and lived in their home for at least three years. This expanded threshold will allow thousands of additional seniors across Illinois to qualify for the property tax freeze – helping them stay in their homes and maintain financial security as the cost of living continues to rise.

The bill also creates a new property tax repayment plan giving counties the authority to establish structured payment options for homeowners with unpaid taxes. For the 2025 tax year, unpaid taxes would begin accruing interest at a reduced rate, providing taxpayers more time and flexibility to meet their obligations without facing harsh penalties. Counties would be able to offer payment plans during the redemption period and waive interest penalties for participants who comply with their plan’s terms – making it easier for older adults to recover from temporary financial setbacks.

“The senior freeze income threshold has remained the same for years, which means it has failed to keep up with the rate of inflation,” Cunningham said. “I am proud to have led the fight in Springfield to address this injustice and make life more affordable for seniors.”

Citizen Utility Board Hosts Virtual Presentation

Alderman Matt O’Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, State Representative Mary Gill, and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) will host two virtual presentations on Tuesday, April 7th from 1-2 p.m. and Thursday, April 9th from 6-7 p.m. These webinars are free. To reserve your spot today, please visit www.19thwardmobile.com.

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 the digital world!

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

Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry

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OUR SHELVES ARE IN NEED OF:

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• Bottled water

• Bottled juices

• Baby formula

• Baby diapers

• Adult diapers

• Canned tuna

• Canned chicken

• Canned salmon

• Condiments

• Corn muffin mix

• Cranberry sauce

• Cake mix

• Pancake mix

• Pancake syrup

• Spaghetti

• Spaghetti sauce

• Pasta

• Stove Top dressing

• Mac and Cheese

• Pork and beans

• Baked beans

• Hormel chili with beans

• Canned chili no beans

• Sloppy joe chili

• Manwich chili

• Spam

• Chef boyardee assorted products

• Boxed sugar

• Boxed mashed potatoes

• Hot sauce

• Milk products

• Snack bars

• Tea bags

• Toothpaste

• Toothbrushes

• Dentures cleaners

• Bar soap

• Dish detergents

• Kleenex tissue

• Disposable latex gloves (lg & md)

• Wrapped frozen packaged meats

WE ARE ALSO IN NEED OF MONETARY DONATIONS

Donate \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, \$100 or \$200 to help out with discounted and tax-exempt bulk food purchases from local businesses.

You can now donate online at www.maplemorganparkfoodpantry.org or checks, cashier checks and sealed cash envelopes are welcome.

Make checks payable to: Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry, 11030 S Longwood Dr., Chicago, IL 60643-4012

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 11

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry

11030 S Longwood Dr., Chicago, IL

*Note: per food guidelines/regulations, non-perishable food items must be sealed, unopened and unused.

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, April 7th

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Thursday, April 9th

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

APRIL 7TH REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CUBWORKSHOP7](https://tinyurl.com/CUBWORKSHOP7)

APRIL 9TH REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CUBWORKSHOP9](https://tinyurl.com/CUBWORKSHOP9)

Matt O'SHEA

19TH WARD ALDERMAN

Bill Cunningham

ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR 18TH DISTRICT

Mary GILL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 35TH DISTRICT

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Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association Sponsors Restaurant Resolution Program

The Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association encourages 19th Ward residents to resolve to gather at Western Avenue restaurants with friends and family in the new year! January and February are notoriously slow months for restaurants. This campaign is designed to drive more traffic into our local eateries and position them to have a healthy 2026. Visit these Western Avenue restaurants on Mondays-Thursdays in January and February, and you could

win a Bucks Stay Here gift card: Fox's, Franconellos, Horse Thief Hollow, Nicky's, Ken's, Open Outcry and Americanos.

For information on how to enter the raffle please visit www.mpbhba.org/restaurant-resolution/.



New Get Behind the Vest Event: A Night at Barraco's

Alderman Matt O'Shea is excited to partner with the Barraco family to host Get Behind the Vest: A Night at Barraco's. This event offers another opportunity for 19th Ward residents to come out and show their support for Chicago Police officers and lend support to the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's Get Behind the Vest initiative.

The event will take place on Thursday, February 19th from 7-9 p.m. at Barraco's located at 3047 W. 111th Street. This event will feature Alderman Matt O'Shea, State Representative Mary Gill, Nick Barraco, and Fr. Dan Brandt as guest bartenders. Please come out and help us make this inaugural event a success!

Bernie's Book Drive Thanks the 19th Ward

Bernie's Book Bank's team sends their thanks to the 19th Ward for donating 3,000 gently used children's books this fall. This equates to enough books for 374 children to receive a bag of 8 books each. The 19th Ward consistently ranks as one of the top donors each year. We are grateful for the community's ongoing support for this wonderful cause.



The Mount Greenwood Community and Business Association Announces New Executive Director

The Mount Greenwood Community and Business Association is excited to announce that Christine LeFils has accepted the executive director position for the association. Chris is a lifelong resident of Mount Greenwood. She was born and raised in a home on 115th and Central Park and attended St. Christina School for grammar school and Mother McAuley High School. She is the proud daughter and sister of Chicago Firefighters.

Chris and her husband, CB, are no strangers to 111th Street owning and operating Hippo's bar for

the last 13 years. They have three children and are raising their family in Mount Greenwood. Chris has also worked for Allstate since 1989 and has developed long-standing relationships with her clients.

Chris has several goals for the association. The first one she is working on is developing a comprehensive business directory for Mount Greenwood that can be shared with residents and business owners.

If you would like more information on the MGCBA, please contact Chris by emailing her at mgcba2013@gmail.com.




PRE-PARADE FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21 2026
3:00PM TO 8:00PM AT 115 BOURBON STREET

**The Larkin and
Moran Brothers
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COST
\$50 AT THE DOOR
INCLUDES BUD LIGHT DRAFT BEER,
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FOR TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT
www.SouthsideIrishParade.org




19TH WARD DOCUMENT SHREDDING


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


SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026
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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A New Director of Nursing Finds Her Perfect Fit at Mercy Circle



Circle's leadership team.

"I'm so excited to be here! I feel like God put me in this ministry," she says with conviction. Mercy Circle executive director, Frances Lachowicz, is equally happy about what Paler-Dominguez has brought to Mercy Circle, saying "Carolyn's professionalism matches her enthusiasm. She has stepped right in, and after only a few months, she has made us even better."

For Paler-Dominguez, Mercy Circle's faith-based mission aligns with her Catholic values. "I like that even in our business meeting, we start with a prayer, a new experience for me. And then we say a reflection before we adjourn. Now, I wake up excited to see what I'll be able to accomplish each day."

Energetic and vivacious, she describes herself as "very goal-achieving." That comes from growing up in a family of role models who achieved success in their fields. The youngest of six children, her siblings include a social worker, a clinical psychiatrist and an airline pilot. "Our home environment was, I would say, highly competitive," she explains.

Born in the Philippines, young Carolyn moved to Wheaton at the age of 10, along with three of those siblings. They lived with their mother, a respected surgical nurse at Cook County Hospital. Her father, a Senator in the Philippines, com-

muted between Pasay City (the Filipino capital), and O'Hare Airport. "I had a lot to live up to," she admits.

Having now experienced the contrast between for-profit senior living communities and Mercy Circle, where she supervises a staff of close to 50 professionals, Paler-Dominguez revels in the differences. "It's so much more collaborative here," she says.

She applies equal passion to her own family, making time to travel to the Philippines, Mexico and California in recent years with her hus-

band, Theo, and sons, David and Dustin. She takes great pride in the fact that David is studying pre-med at Loyola University – Chicago.

As for further studies of her own, she has a quick response when one of her siblings – all of whom have advanced degrees – tries to cajole her into heading back to school. "I don't need another degree!" she says. "This is what I want to do." And 20 years from now? "I'll be right here," she says. "This is my dream job."



Photos by Marc Monaghan

VETERAN RESOURCES SATELLITE OFFICE HOURS

WITH SENATOR **BILL CUNNINGHAM**, REPRESENTATIVE **MARY GILL**,
REPRESENTATIVE **RICK RYAN**, ALDERMAN **MATT O'SHEA** + COMMISSIONER **JOHN DALEY**

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FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

NOON - 4 P.M.

3207 W. 111TH ST. CHICAGO, IL 60655



For more information, contact Senator Cunningham at (773) 445-8128 or visit SenatorBillCunningham.com

Garden Club of Morgan Park/Beverly Hills Marks 100th Anniversary in 2026: Celebrating 100 Years of Gardening and Community

Club to host series of programs and events that highlight the era of its founding, community commitment and involvement.

The Garden Club of Morgan Park/Beverly Hills is excited to announce its 100th year anniversary in 2026. The club will kick off the centennial year with a program on Wednesday, February 4th at 10 a.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 9401 S. Oakley Avenue, Chicago, featuring a look back through the decades. Member PJ Pistek - or should we call her Mrs. Pistek, as all members were referred to in that era! - is the presenter.

“We are thrilled to have reached this important milestone and look forward to sharing our history through a series of programs and events throughout the year,” said Gael Mennecke, President of the Garden Club of Morgan Park/Beverly Hills. “We look forward to sharing our story with the community and continuing our long tradition of engagement with our neighbors.”

Much of the programming and activities will focus on the era when the club began with local tie-ins to that period. Highlights will include:

- Gardening in the 1920s with pre-

sentations on topics such as heirloom tomato varieties and the prairie landscape of Morgan Park and Beverly

- The annual member garden walk in July where gardens at homes built in the 1920s will be featured
- Participation in the 100th Annual Memorial Day Parade on Longwood Drive with a surprise for parade goers
- A member field trip to the Morton Arboretum which was formed in 1922
- A program featuring a presentation on prairies by students from the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences are among the highlights.
- An installation of hand-crocheted and knit flowers made by member Eileen Quirk Rowan that will be on display at local businesses starting in January

The club will also partner with other community organizations such as the Beverly Area Planning Association, which will kick-off its



July 2026 garden walk registration at the Beverly Arts Center where the Garden Club maintains the courtyard garden area.

In October, the Club will again host its annual free community event at the Beverly Arts Center. This annual community day began in 2019 when noted landscaper Roy Diblik spoke. Other speakers have included Bill Kurtis and Leslie Goddard.

“I am very proud that our members want to support and partici-

pate in a year-long celebration that will continue to educate and inform them about gardening and our community,” Mennecke said. “We have a full calendar in 2026 and as always, we welcome new members. Come celebrate this important milestone with us and see what the club is all about!”

For more information on joining or upcoming monthly events beginning in February, email gardenclubofmorganparkbeverly@gmail.com

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U.S. News & World Report

SHORT-TERM REHABILITATION 2026

BEST NURSING HOMES

U.S. News & World Report

SHORT-TERM REHABILITATION 2025

BEST NURSING HOMES

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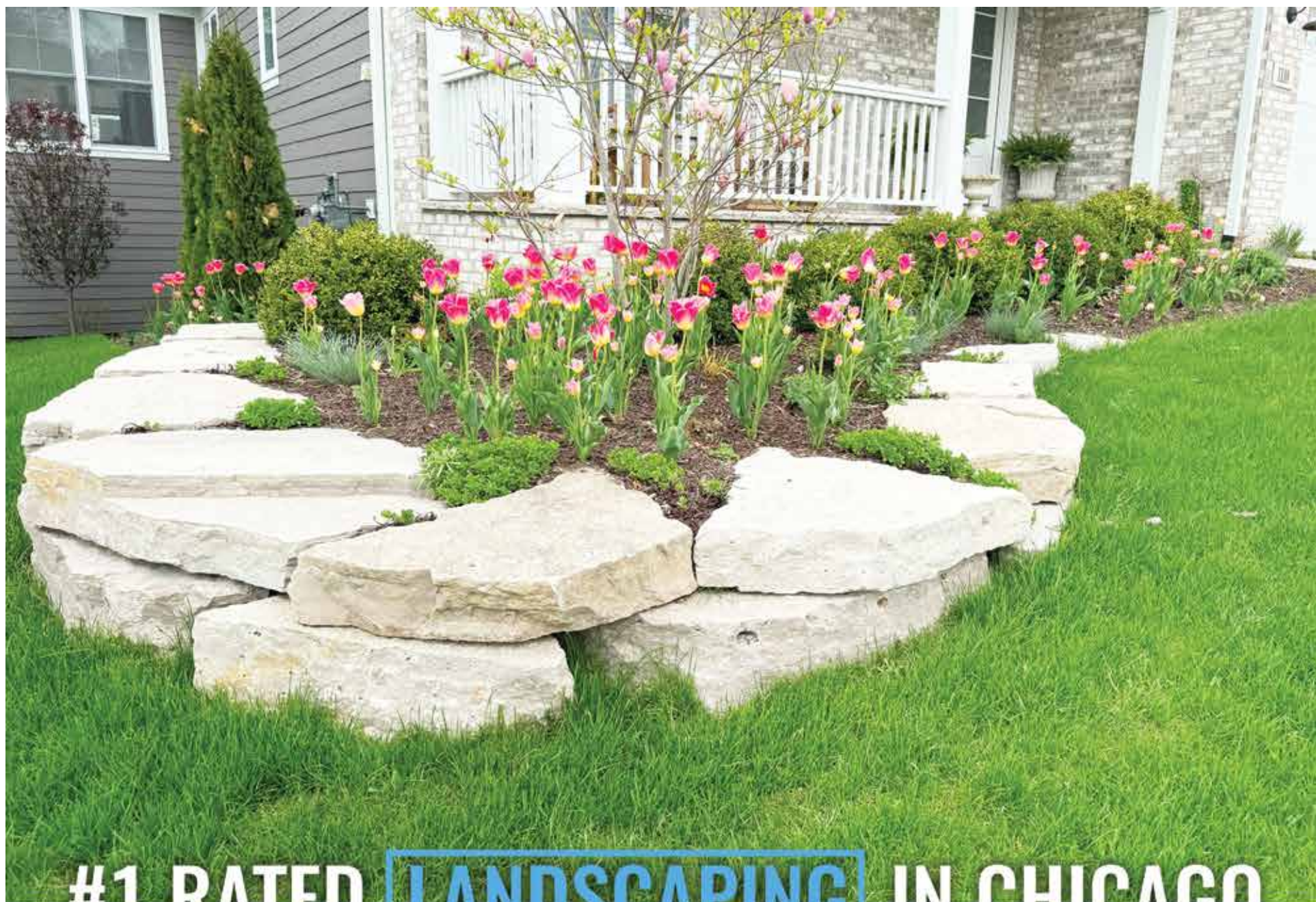
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Smith Village Residents and St. Cajetan Student Council Members Team Up for 11th Annual Valentines for Vets

“It’s so important that veterans feel loved, especially those inflicted with visible or invisible wounds. Making individual Valentine’s Day gifts for them is our heartfelt way to provide a moment of happiness,” explained Logan Boyd, president of St. Cajetan School’s student council.

On Tuesday, February 10th, Boyd and student council vice president, Dylan Moss, led more than 30 student council members to Smith Village. There they joined residents for the 11th annual collaboration since Alderman Matt O’Shea invited these two community pillars to support veterans at a time other than Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day.

Every year, Modie Lavin, senior veteran outreach coordinator at Rush Medical Center’s Road Home Program, brings these gifts to veterans at Rush for Valentine’s Day. “As a USMC Gold Star mother, I honor my son, Conner, who sacrificed for our country by reaching out to returning veterans and their families,” Lavin stated. Marine Corps Cpl. Conner T. Lowry died on patrol in

Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on March 1, 2012. He was 24 years old.

This year marked a change in how the teams of intergenerational cupids worked together. Instead of starting to craft a gift, Smith Village residents and St. Cajetan students paired up to spend 15 minutes together asking, “What should I write to a veteran who is healing from

visible or invisible wounds?” After several drafts, each team chose the message for a card they then attached to the card a pocket-sized heart made and donated by The Quilter’s Trunk and topped the card off with a bow.

“By creating such a personal Valentine, we thank and encourage the veterans served by Rush’s

Road Home Program,” explained Dave Degnan, a Smith Village resident who joined the U.S. Air Force after high school. “We hope they will think, ‘Maybe what I did means something.’ Veterans trying to heal deserve to know that someone they have not even met cares about them. We hope our gifts perk up their day. And the bonus is that we feel better because we have helped another person facing big challenges,” said Degnan.

“Kids who strive to be leaders know how to put their feelings and ideas into words,” explained Smith Village resident Alice Keane, who served for 30 years as a teacher and principal of Chicago Public Schools. “While making a ‘pocket hug’ for each veteran was fun, what’s important is to convey an uplifting message for veterans experiencing challenges. It’s a way for students to learn how to explore empathy not simply sympathy.”


As they gathered for pizza, Degan added, “This is our way to encourage those veterans who have another hill to climb.”



Photo by Marc Monaghan

VETERANS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

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+ **REPRESENTATIVE MARY GILL**
+ **REPRESENTATIVE RICK RYAN**



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The Ridge Historic District Celebrates Its Golden Anniversary

Part One – The Purpose of Historic Districts is Preservation

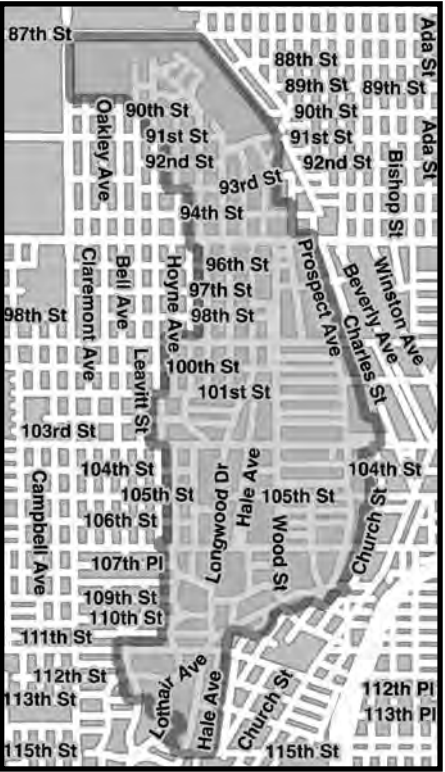
By: Carol Flynn

The Ridge Historic District (RHD) was entered into the National Register of Historic Places on May 28, 1976, making this the fiftieth year that Beverly/Morgan Park has been honored with this distinction.

The RHD, an area of 212 acres marked by irregular boundaries, was identified as including buildings and other features that were significant in history of the area and therefore worthy of preservation.

As the accompanying map of the RHD shows, the district ranges from 87th Street on the north to 115th Street on the south. On the east side, it stretches as far as Church Street on 103rd Street to include Graver Park.

On the west side, the RHD starts at Western Avenue to take in the southern part of Dan Ryan Woods, then at 90th Street tapers east to run south along streets like Hoyne, Damen, and Bell through Beverly and Morgan Park.



Map of the Ridge Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, by Tim Blackburn.



Dan Ryan Woods south of 87th Street is included in the Ridge Historic District for open space and landscaping significance, citing the “elegant serpentine channelization of an intermittent stream with native limestone.” Today, historical significance and perhaps engineering significance could also be listed, as this was a project during the Great Depression to provide jobs for unemployed men. Photo by Carol Flynn.

The RHD came about due to federal and state initiatives to help communities record and preserve their histories.

The United States has generally lagged behind other countries in preserving its heritage. Early preservation efforts by the federal government led to the creation of national parks, but most efforts to preserve buildings and communities were carried out by local, private (that is, non-government) groups. A prime example of this is John D. Rockefeller’s private initiative to restore Colonial Williamsburg, begun in 1926.

By the 1960s, urban renewal efforts had led to the destruction of many historic buildings and community areas, prompting the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966.

According to the National Park Service, which oversees federal preservation efforts, the National Historic Preservation Act established a national preservation program and created the National Register of Historic Places to be the official inventory of sites, structures, and objects significant on a national, state, or local level in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture.

This new preservation act made states responsible for identifying and nominating properties to be included on the National Register and established a grant program to provide funds to states and individuals to help with preservation programs.

In response to the 1966 Act, Illinois started a preservation initiative to identify historic sites that could benefit from preservation efforts such as being nominated for inclusion on the National Register.

The first step was an enormous undertaking to gather information on historical architectural structures, historic landmark sites, and archaeological sites, into a database.

Appointed as Director of the architecture part, the Illinois His-



The houses designed by Walter Burley Griffin on 104th Place are featured prominently in the nomination for the Ridge Historic District for their architectural significance. Later, this block also became designated as a Chicago Landmark District. Photo by Mati Maldre.

toric Structures Survey, was Paul E. Sprague, a noted architecture historian and preservationist who was then a professor at the University of Chicago. Sprague set up headquarters for his work at the Glessner House, the historic house on Prairie Avenue.

This project ran from 1971 to 1975, before society was “online.”

The information was gathered by a team of surveyors visiting every corner of the state in person to work with local historical societies and other groups to identify, research, photograph, and document buildings.

Individual survey cards with photographs were filed for all the buildings. More than 50,000 properties were inventoried, and the original cards are kept in the State Historic Preservation Office at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in Springfield.

Sprague was no stranger to the Beverly/Morgan Park area. Several members of his team lived in the area, including Thomas Yanul, a noted photographer who was one of the surveyors, and Susan Karr, an architecture historian who would become Mrs. Sprague.

Sprague relocated to Beverly, and by the time the nomination for the Ridge Historic District (and many other districts throughout the state) was submitted, their office was located at 1808 West 103rd Street, making Beverly a center of state preservation endeavors.

Thomas Yanul was part of the planning group that founded the Ridge Historical Society in 1971. He was well versed in the history and architecture of the area.

One of the outcomes of the Survey project was to identify historic locations in the state to be nominated for inclusion on the National Register, and the Beverly/Morgan Park area was chosen by Sprague and his team to be one of the sites.

The nomination form for this submission and others in the state was written by Robert Wagner.

Wagner lived in Beverly, in the historic S. A. Tanner House,

designed by architects Tallmadge and Watson, at 9640 S. Longwood Drive. He was an art historian who had been a journalist for the Chicago Tribune. He became involved with Sprague’s team when Yanul knocked on his door one day and asked for permission to photograph the house for the Survey.

Wagner did much of the history research for the nomination form. Sixty-two buildings and sites were identified as being significant for the formation of the historic district. Some were considered of architectural significance, based on the results of the Survey. Others were considered of historical significance, based on research with the expert help of Robert White, a major founding member of the Ridge Historical Society, Thomas Yanul, and others.

The Sprague team met with local groups to discuss and promote the project. Susan Karr made presentations to the public. The Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA) encouraged the community to write letters of support. Philip Dolan, the Executive Director of BAPA, ably assisted in communication efforts by Mary Quinn Olsson, and submitted a letter of support for the nomination.

The nomination form was submitted in late 1975, and the team and the community were gratified to learn of its approval in May of 1976.

The next issue of this newsletter will explore the Ridge Historic District itself, and what it has led to for the community, including three Chicago Landmark Districts. The memories and perspectives of Susan Karr Sprague, Robert Wagner, and others who were involved in the original nomination to create the Ridge Historic District will be shared.

Many of the others, including Paul Sprague, Thomas Yanul, Robert White, and Mary Quinn Olsson, have passed away, but their legacies live on through their many contributions to preserving the community’s heritage.



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U.S. News & World Report (2026)



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At Smith Village, First New Residents of 2026 Feel Right at Home in Neighborhood That Has Defined Their Lives

One day, a little more than 50 years ago, Jim Tierney – back in his hometown Chicago after serving in Vietnam – ambled into the office of a well-known Beverly optometrist, Dr. Donald Bush, to get a pair of contact lenses. He started talking with the receptionist, a college student named Marita Brace. “And pretty soon he was calling me for a date,” she recalls today. But first, she had to get the thumbs-up from “Doc” Bush.

“He was the best boss I ever had,” she says. He knew a million jokes, and he knew everybody. And he would tell me, ‘Well, you can go out with that guy,’ or ‘That guy comes from a good family; they pay their bills on time.’ So it was like a dating service besides a job.” Jim and Marita married not long after and remained happily ensconced on Chicago’s Southwest side, where both had grown up in the 1950s.

So when it came time to downsize from their splendid 3,000 square-foot house in West Beverly, directly across from Ridge Country Club – the house in which they’d raised three children and entertained 17 grandchildren over the course of three decades – they never even considered moving out of the 19th Ward.

After all, they’d already lived in

Beverly for the nearly half-century since they’d married. And everything they knew and loved was nearby, from the Lyric Theater – the old movie house in Blue Island, converted into a popular music venue – to County Fair Foods on Western Avenue, which Marita describes as “the navel of the neighborhood,” where everyone goes and where information gets shared.

Having heard only good things about Smith Village, they moved in a week before speaking to the 19th Ward Quarterly. It didn’t hurt that their son, Patrick, lives a mile away, with his wife, Brie, and their four sons. The Tierneys’ daughter, Jeanne Barcelona, lives in Detroit with husband, Bill, and their three children. Their oldest son, James L., who had served as a Marine Captain, died of melanoma in 2022, leaving behind his wife, Kendra and 10 Tierney grandkids.

One might think that moving from a huge house to a two-bedroom apartment would take some adjustment, but “It’s big enough for our needs; we were really impressed with the size of the rooms,” Jim says. “And even though we have less space for the grandchildren to play when they come over, we have the game room downstairs, and Kennedy Park just across the street.”

Both spent their careers working with students, Jim was a juvenile probation officer who later earned his law degree from John Marshall Law School (now U of I Chicago School of Law); he practiced law at night and kept his probation position until he retired in 2017. “I hear back from some of my students from time to time,” he notes, “and that’s very rewarding, because some of them were, you know, really hard kids” who he helped get onto the right track.

Marita taught in Catholic schools for 46 years, the last 17 of them at Mount Carmel High School,

and these days she often runs into former students – some of whom were classmates with her own sons. “We share a lot of memories from those days, with a lot of people who also still live around here,” Marita says. Smith Village has allowed them to stay at home, in a way, without having to navigate the expense of a five-bedroom, multi-level house.

“This neighborhood is like a small town,” Marita says, “where everyone seems to know somebody that you know. So you have to be careful who you talk about,” she adds with a wink.



Photo by Marc Monaghan

MT. GREENWOOD Community Food Drive

benefitting Pat's Pantry

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026
12:00pm - 3:00pm
Mt. Greenwood Community Church
3509 W. 111th Street, Chicago

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

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 Cavallone Turney at CavalloneKathleen@gmail.com.

The Mt. Greenwood Community Food Drive is sponsored by:

www.MtGreenwoodFoodPantry.wordpress.com

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PARTNERING WITH CONGRESSMAN CASTEN,
REP. GILL, REP. RYAN + ALDERMAN O'SHEA**

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

• K-Cups	• Individual-serving cereal boxes
• Paper towels	• Postage stamps
• C-fold towels	• Drawstring garbage bags: 4, 13, 30, and 55 gallon
• To-go food containers	• Laundry detergent
- 32oz containers	• Dryer sheets
- 28oz containers	• Gas cards for families
- clear single containers	• Gift cards for Target, Amazon, Jewel, Home Depot, Walmart, Office Depot
- 12oz cups	

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

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10400 S. WESTERN OR 3207 W. 111TH STREET

REP. RYAN'S OFFICE
3900 W. 95TH ST., SUITE 7 EVERGREEN PARK

For more information, please contact Fran Hurley at
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Gill Maintains Commitment to Passing the Daniel Capauno Memorial Act

State Representative Mary Gill plans on championing legislation that will support and protect the lives of first responders, the Daniel Capauno Memorial Act.

“Ten years ago, our community faced a tragedy when firefighter, Daniel Capauno, died in the line of duty,” said Gill. “His death could have been avoided, but a commercial property owner cut corners and put him in a dangerous situation. That should have never happened, and we cannot allow it to happen again,” added Gill.

The Daniel Capauno Memorial Act would create the offense of first responder endangerment. This offense would be committed anytime an individual creates a dangerous condition on their commercial property and intentionally conceals it, leading to a first responder being injured or killed.

This legislation would help pre-

vent first responders from being put in dangerous situations that could have been avoided. Commercial property owners will be held accountable, and they could face a felony if they fail to disclose information that their property is not up to code. The Act will ensure that first responders have the necessary in-



formation to respond to a crisis accordingly while ensuring their own safety.

“Daniel Capauno’s legacy continues to live on,” said Gill. “Whether it’s through this act, or his son, who has decided to follow in his father’s footsteps and become a firefighter. We can make a difference, here and now, by

providing first responders with additional support, as they navigate dangerous situations. What happened to Daniel Capauno does not have to happen again, and that is why I am going to do everything I can to get this bill passed.”

Special Children’s Charities Annual Polar Plunge

Registration is now open for the 26th Annual Polar Plunge Chicago benefiting Special Olympics Illinois and presented by Special Children’s Charities. The plunge returns to North Avenue Beach on Sunday, March 1st. Thousands of people are expected to brave the cold and plunge into Lake Michigan to raise funds for individuals with intellectual disabilities living in Chicago.

This is the largest plunge held in the Midwest. In 2025, 4,800 people participated, including approximately 274 teams raising more than \$1.8 million dollars.

Registration is now open at specialchildrenscharities.org. Participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$200. All registered plungers re-



ceive free parking at Lincoln Park Zoo or a free bus for groups of 20 or more. Participants also receive a souvenir t-shirt, a towel when exiting

the water, and free photo downloads. Those participants who are 17 and under can register for \$100 per person.

For more information on this event please contact events@specialchildrenscharities.org or call (312) 527-3743.



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19th Ward Seeks Election Judges

The Chicago Board of Elections is seeking individuals to serve as election judges for the Midterm Primary Election on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. 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 services. Election judges 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 5:00 am 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 7:00 pm.

"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 not only meet residents of their community, but

also take an active role in the election process."

Among the requirements to become a Judge of Election, individuals must:

- I am a U.S. citizen.
- I am a registered voter in Cook County (if 18 or older).
- I can speak, read, and write English.
- I am not a committeeperson, precinct captain or candidate, and will not serve as a judge if I become one.
- I am not a registered sex offender anywhere in the United States and have not committed a crime that would require me to register as a sex offender in the United States.

Election Judges can earn anywhere from \$170 to \$230 for their service. Payment is based on completion of training and service on Election Day.

For more information on being an Election Judge, please visit www.chicagoelections.gov.

March 17 Election Information

The next election in Chicago is Tuesday, March 17, 2026 Midterm Primary Election; the polls will be open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. On the ballot are federal offices such as Senators, Representatives, Congressmen, Cook County Offices, Water Reclamation District Commissioners, Judges and Committeepersons. Make sure your voice is heard – vote in this and every election. All voters are eligible to participate in this election via early voting, voting by mail, or voting on Election Day.

EARLY VOTING

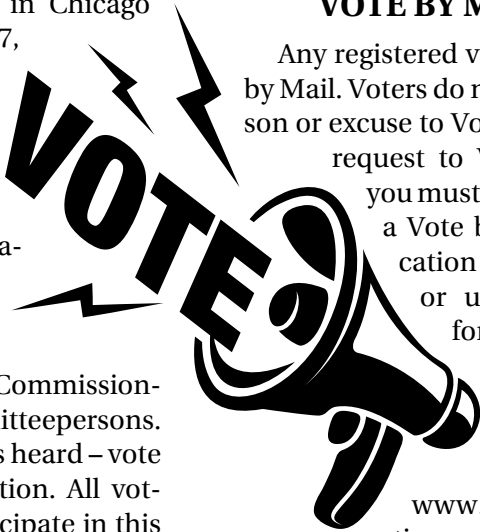
Early voting is available at Mount Greenwood Park (3721 W. 111th St.) starting on Monday, March 2 through Election Day on Tuesday, March 17 and at the Board of Elections Early Voting Super Site (137 S. State Street) and Chicago Board of Elections (69 W. Washington Street, 6th floor). Hours of operation are:

- Weekdays: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Saturday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Sunday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Election Day: 6:00 am - 7:00 pm (March 17)

VOTE BY MAIL

Any registered voter may Vote by Mail. Voters do not need a reason or excuse to Vote by Mail. To request to Vote by Mail, you must first complete a Vote by Mail application either online or using a paper form by March 12 by 5:00 pm. To apply online, please visit www.chicagoelections.gov and click on the "Voting" button at the top left hand of the home page. Paper forms are available at the 19th Ward Office, 10400 S. Western Ave. or can be downloaded from www.chicagoelections.gov.

Upon receiving your completed application, the Chicago Board of Elections will mail you a ballot with return instructions. All Vote by Mail ballots must be post marked on or before Tuesday, March 17 to be counted. Please note, ballots cast in Early Voting or Vote by Mail are final; after casting ballots in either method, voters may not return to amend, change, or undo a ballot for any reason. **Questions?** Call 312-269-7967 or visit www.chicagoelections.gov.



South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade Plans Pre-Parade Fundraiser

The South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Pre-Parade Fundraiser is set for Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 3 to 8 p.m. at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 West 115th Street, Merrionette Park, IL 60803.

Tickets are \$50 and admission includes a dinner buffet, draft beer and wine. The event will also feature raffle prizes and the announcement of the 2026 South Side Irish Parade Queen. Live music will be provided by Larkin, Moran Brothers & Whiskey Mick.

"We are excited to see everyone come together at the South Side Irish Pre-Parade Fundraiser. This great evening helps us to raise funds to continue our tradition of marching down Western Avenue" said Bill Letz, this year's chair of the South Side Irish Parade Committee.

The fundraiser helps offset the costs for putting on the parade, which is scheduled to step off from 103rd and Western Avenue on Sunday, March 15 at 12 noon.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance from the Parade's website store. Visit <https://southsideirishparade.org/product/2026-pre-parade-fundraiser/>

This year's Grand Marshal is Tunnel to Towers Foundation, a national non-profit helping America's heroes by providing mortgage-

free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children and by building specially-adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. The Foundation was created to honor the life and legacy of Fire Department of New York (FDNY) firefighter Stephen Siller, who laid down his life to save others on September 11, 2001.

Tunnel to Towers has provided financial support to many Chicago-area first responders and their families. This year, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation is embarking on the most comprehensive commemoration in our history to honor the past, serve those in need today, and educate future generations. Steel Across America, a nationwide campaign to transport an authentic 24-foot steel beam from the World Trade Center to communities across the United States, honoring the 25th anniversary of 9/11. For more details visit <https://t2t.org>

The Parade Honoree is St. Christina Parish, Mount Greenwood, celebrating their 100th anniversary. The pastor, Rev. Ryan Brady, also serves as Chaplain for Chicago Fire Department. The Parish will kick off its' anniversary party on April 11 with plans for more activities over the year. Please see [\[christinaparish.org/100th-anniversary\]\(http://christinaparish.org/100th-anniversary\) for more information.

About The South Side Irish Parade:

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

The parade is generously supported by major sponsors including, Lakeshore Beverage, Ozinga, The Beverly Review, IUOE Local](https://www.st-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

399, Old National Bank, Chicago White Sox, Metra, Local 150,, Raising Cane, McCready Law, Flood Brothers, Home Run Inn Beverly, UPAT District 14, ComEd, Gas N' Wash, County Fair Foods, OSF Little Company of Mary Medical Center, UICE Local 2, Subaru of Evergreen Park, Disparti Law Group, Hilton Oak Lawn, Marquette Bank, Megent Financial, Ullico Inc, Guinness, BudLight, Green River, Roofers and Waterproofers Local 11, South Side Irish Imports and more.

Visit southsideirishparade.org and the parade's Facebook page for more information.



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Protecting Your Property Through Chicago Winters

Author: Tom Marsan

Bio: Tom Marsan is a certified snow professional who has been in the landscaping and snow removal industry for about two decades. He is an active member of Landscape Illinois, IREM, and SIMA and is currently the General Manager at Beverly Companies in Chicagoland.

The average annual snowfall in Chicago over the past decade is 37.9 inches. While the last three winters have been relatively mild, Chicagoland weather is anything but predictable. Snow accumulation, followed by repeated freeze-thaw cycles can quietly take a toll on driveways, sidewalks, and other hardscapes. And as we have seen so far this winter, snow isn't done in Chicago yet!

When moisture seeps into concrete and freezes, it expands, creating small fractures beneath the surface. Over time, those tiny cracks grow. Each thaw and refreeze can cause flaking or surface spalling, and the widespread use of traditional rock salt often makes the problem worse. Sodium-chloride deicers increase water absorption in concrete, accelerating deterioration.

The good news is that with a few proactive steps and smarter material choices, homeowners can protect their investment while still keeping walkways safe and accessible throughout the winter.

Smart Winter Protection Can Start Now

Start by walking your property during a mild stretch and inspecting driveways, steps, patios, and sidewalks for small cracks or gaps. These can still be sealed during winter using cold-weather concrete patch products, helping prevent additional moisture from entering and expanding during freeze-thaw cycles. If conditions allow, applying a penetrating sealer during a warmer window can also provide added protection.

Drainage remains just as critical mid-season. Check that downspouts are still directing water away from hard surfaces and that gutters are flowing properly. Ice buildup and repeated water exposure are often the root cause of worsening cracks and surface deterioration.

Finally, take stock of your snow and ice management tools. Make



sure you're using deicers that are safe for concrete and pets, and that your shovel or snow pusher is in good shape. Having the right materials on hand allows you to respond quickly to each storm instead of reacting after damage has already begun.

Many Chicagoland property owners turn to trusted local snow resources for education on safer winter maintenance practices and long-term property protection.

Shovel Early and Consistently

When it comes to ice prevention, timing matters.

Snow that sits too long compacts and turns into ice, which is significantly harder to remove. Clearing snow early and making frequent passes during longer storms helps prevent buildup and reduces the need for heavy deicer use.

Whenever possible, push snow rather than lifting it. A pusher-style shovel allows you to move snow efficiently while being easier on your body and gentler on pavement.

Where you pile snow matters too. Avoid stacking snow near garden beds or lawn edges, especially if you're using any type of ice melt. As snow melts, salty runoff can damage soil and plant material. Instead, distribute piles across open lawn areas where melting water can naturally disperse.

For slick areas, consider using sand or kitty litter to improve traction. These won't melt ice, but they provide immediate grip without chemical damage.

Selecting the Right Deicer

Not all ice melt products are created equal. Traditional rock salt (sodium chloride) is inexpensive and widely used. Some other alternatives include:

Calcium chloride: Works quickly, remains effective at very low temperatures.

Magnesium chloride: Effective in moderately cold temperatures and generally gentler on surfaces and vegetation.

Potassium chloride: Safer for plants and pets but works best in milder winter conditions.

Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA): A salt-free option that is safe for both concrete and landscaping.

Abrasives (sand or fine gravel): Do not melt ice, but improve traction without chemical impact.

No matter which product you use, application rate is key. A light, even application is usually sufficient. Once ice loosens, remove the slush promptly and sweep away leftover residue to prevent it from soaking back into the surface.

Protecting Landscaping and Surrounding Areas

Winter runoff doesn't just affect hardscapes. It can also stress nearby

plant material.

Shrubs bordering walkways or driveways benefit from temporary barriers such as burlap wraps or low fencing to reduce salty splashback. Adding extra mulch along bed edges can also help absorb runoff before it reaches roots.

Once spring arrives, deeply watering affected areas can help flush excess salts from the soil and support healthier plant recovery.

A More Sustainable Approach to Ice Management

Reducing salt use isn't just good for your property, but it benefits the wider environment. Excessive deicer application contributes to rising chloride levels in soil and groundwater across the Midwest.

Snow professionals often follow the ANSI/ASCA Snow & Ice Management Standard, which emphasizes:

- Applying the minimum effective amount of deicer
- Prioritizing physical snow removal before chemical use
- Adjusting treatment methods based on surface type, slope, and foot traffic

While designed for professionals, homeowners can follow the same mindset: focus on timing, precision, and moderation rather than over-application.

Preserving Your Property for the Long Term

By sealing surfaces early, managing drainage, shoveling promptly, choosing gentler deicers, and being mindful of runoff, homeowners can significantly extend the life of their concrete and landscaping.

A little planning now helps prevent costly repairs later and ensures your property emerges from winter in better condition when spring arrives.



ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S SENIOR CITIZEN ST. PATRICK'S DAY BUFFET

Thursday, March 12, 2026
12:00 P.M.

115 Bourbon Street
3359 W. 115th St.

\$5 Admission includes
family style buffet
Cash bar available

The 19th Ward's Street and Sanitation
Superintendent will be on site to
discuss service requests.

19th Ward Residents 65+ Only - I.D. Required

Space is limited, reservations required
773.238.8766 or kelly@the19thward.com

**Irish
Dancers**

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