



Quarterly

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

MAY 2026

Significant Milestones for Elizabeth H. Sutherland Elementary School

There are milestones, and then there are moments. The kind that stops you mid-step, makes you look around at the faces gathered beside you, and feel the full weight of something that truly matters. For the students, staff, families, and alumni of Elizabeth H. Sutherland Elementary School, that moment arrived on Friday, February 6, 2026, when the community gathered at the Lyric Theater in Blue Island for a centennial gala that was as unforgettable as the school it honored. Organized and sponsored by the Sutherland Foundation for Education and Enrichment (SFEE), the evening brought together generations of Sutherland Bulldogs under one glittering roof to celebrate 100 years of academic excellence and community on Chicago's South Side. The Lyric's grand setting provided a fitting backdrop for a night filled with heavy appetizers, drinks, live entertainment, split the pot raffle and a spirited silent auction (with a large SpongeBob SquarePants presence!) — every element a testament to just how much this school means to those who have passed through its doors.

The room buzzed with joy and nostalgia. Former students — some now parents and grandparents themselves — mingled with current families, teachers past and present, and community partners, all united by a shared love for a school rooted in Beverly since 1925. It was, by every account, a party like no other.

A Brief History: Elizabeth H. Sutherland Elementary and 100 Years of Beverly Roots

Sutherland Elementary School opened its doors in 1925 in the heart of Beverly — and in doing so, it honored one of Chicago's most remarkable educators. The school is named for Elizabeth "Bessie" Huntington Sutherland, a pioneering figure in Chicago public education and the

first woman to serve as principal of a school in all of Cook County.

The building was completed in 1925, occupying a full city block at 100th and Leavitt Streets. In its earliest decades, Sutherland embodied the rhythms of a close-knit neighborhood school. Over the decades that followed, Sutherland adapted and grew alongside Beverly, one of Chicago's most genuinely integrated neighborhoods. Throughout the next century, Sutherland has remained a constant in Beverly: rooted, reliable, and committed to every child who walked through its doors. Today, Elizabeth H. Sutherland Elementary is a K-8 school serving approximately 631 students, with a robust early literacy program in the lower grades and the prestigious International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. The school consistently outperforms Chicago Public Schools district averages in test scores, student attendance rate, and growth goals for students. It is, in every sense, a school that has earned its century.

A Night to Remember at the Lyric

The centennial celebration was a triumph of community organizing, signature Sutherland spirit, and genuine fun. The funds raised will directly benefit the students of Sutherland Elementary today with after-school programs and technology upgrades. For many in attendance, the evening carried deep personal meaning. Alumni came from near and far, drawn by what Foundation President and alumnus Patrick Barnum describes as a motto that captures the Sutherland spirit perfectly: "Forever a Bulldog." Barnum, who grew up in Beverly and attended Sutherland himself with the Class of 1994, had been building the school's alumni network ahead of the centennial, and the response was overwhelming — alumni span-



ning from the 1960s to as recently as the 2020s reconnected, sharing stories and reaching back out to classmates they hadn't seen in decades. Barnum understood the enthusiasm noting, "Once you went through Sutherland, you are always a Bulldog."

That sense of belonging was palpable throughout the evening at the Lyric — a room full of people who, no matter how many years had passed, still felt at home together. The Foundation also hosted an "Alumni Day" where alums from the years were able to participate in some fun activities, presentations, and class reunions. This really allowed the entire Sutherland community to both celebrate at the gala and then on their years at the Alumni Day to reinforce their years as a Bulldog.

Honoring a Legacy: The Retirement of Principal Meg Burns

No celebration of Sutherland's present would be complete without a proper tribute to one of its most beloved leaders. This centennial carried added significance: it also marked the retirement of Principal Margaret "Meg" Burns, whose dedication to Sutherland Elementary has left an indelible mark on the school and on the countless students, families, and educators, fortunate enough to be part of her tenure.

Meg Burns is, in many ways, the embodiment of what Sutherland



stands for. A former Sutherland Elementary parent herself and a local Beverly resident for more than 25 years, Burns assumed the role of principal in September 2017 — bringing with her not only deep professional expertise but a deeply personal connection to the community she would lead. She knew these streets, these families, and this neighborhood. And Sutherland knew her. Under Burns' leadership, she championed an inclusive, equitable learning environment, supported her teachers with steady and visionary leadership, and worked hand-in-hand with the Sutherland Foundation and other school organizations to ensure that every capital need, every classroom upgrade, and every enrichment opportunity was within reach for every child. Foundation President Patrick Barnum, who has worked alongside Burns throughout her tenure, put it simply: "I can't imagine any other type of administration. Meg has been open to our ideas, and her support and vision have been essential to everything we've accomplished."

At the centennial celebration,

Continued on page 4

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Beat 2211 1 Thurs@6pm Sister Pat Mahoney Anna Hall		Beat 2221 1 st Tues@6pm		Beat 2232 2 nd Wed@6pm	
DATES		DATES		DATES	
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

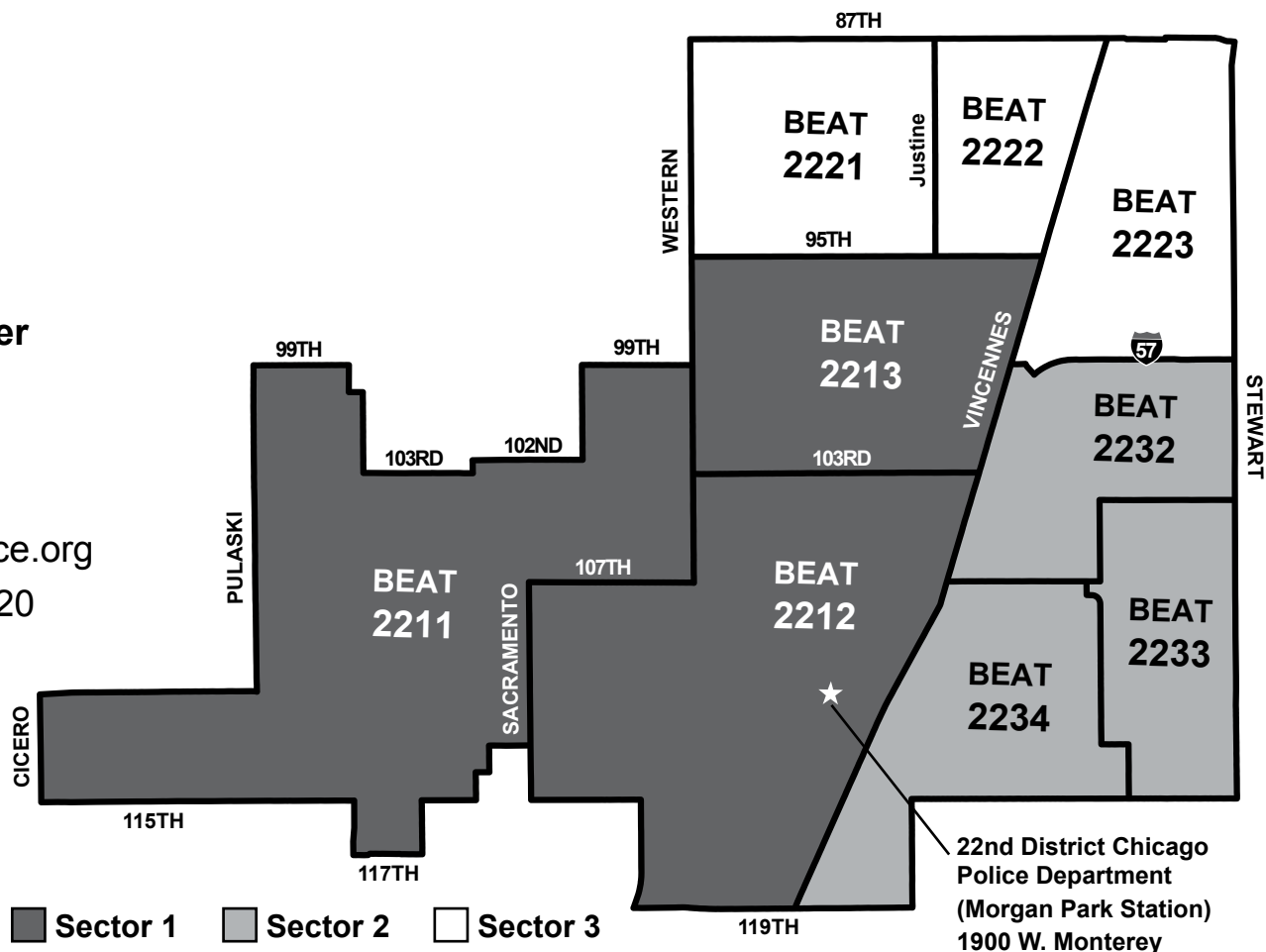
****DATES, TIMES & LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE****



**22ND District Commander
Patrick Darling**

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Continued from front page

a special moment was set aside to honor Burns and send her into retirement with the warmth and appreciation she so richly deserves. The Foundation and students offered tributes, stories were shared, and the standing ovation that followed said everything words could not.

The Sutherland Foundation for Education and Enrichment: Partners in Excellence

The centennial celebration would not have happened without the driving force behind it: the Sutherland Foundation for Education and Enrichment, established in 2010 and the primary sponsor of the February 6th gala.

Since then, the Foundation's impact has been remarkable. It funded the renovation of the school's science lab, installed new Promethean interactive panels in classrooms across the building, added an outdoor classroom to Sutherland's campus, and supported enrichment opportunities that extend far beyond the standard curriculum. This event was organized to not only celebrate 100 years of Sutherland and the leadership of Mrs. Burns but also to focus on raising funds for after-school programs and technology upgrades. With the loss of funding from CPS and community grants, the Foundation has

mobilized to raise money to fund after-school programs. Some proposed programs include STEM opportunities, chess club, and other enrichment activities.

"We see Sutherland as a community," Barnum explains, "and we work for the good of the students, staff, and building. And that includes supporting our students after the school day ends."

Looking Forward

One hundred years is not a finish line — it is a foundation. The students currently enrolled at Sutherland Elementary are not simply inheriting a school; they are inheriting a tradition. A promise. A community's belief that their children are worth investing in — year after year, generation after generation.

As Principal Burns steps into a well-earned retirement and the Sutherland Foundation continues its work building an endowment to secure enrichment programs for years to come, there is every reason to believe that the next hundred years will be every bit as full of learning, laughter, and love as the last. Sutherland has always been more than a building on a block in Beverly. It is proof — 100 years running — that a school, at its very best, becomes part of the soul of the community.


Happy centennial, Sutherland. Go Bulldogs. Here's to the next hundred years.

19th WARD YOUTH & COMMUNITY FOUNDATION Summer Concert Series

- July 16:** El Rando Band @ 7:00 p.m.
Kennedy Park, 11320 S. Western Ave.
- July 30:** Jazz on the Hill @ 6:00 p.m.
featuring the Chicago State Jazz Band
Chicago State University House
10400 S. Longwood Dr.
- Aug 6:** Over the Side Band @ 7:00 p.m.
Beverly Park, 2460 W. 102nd St.
- Aug 13:** Music on the Green @ 7:00 p.m.
featuring Coyote Riot
Mount Greenwood Park, 3721 W. 111th St.
- Aug 27:** Jazz in the Park @ 7:00 p.m.
featuring NuSource Jazz Band
The Prairie Park, 11625 S. Oakley Ave.

Stay Informed! Follow the 19th Ward on Social Media

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CUB Hosts Virtual Presentations

Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, State Representative Mary Gill, and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) will host two virtual presentations on Tuesday, June 16th from 1-2 p.m. and Thursday, June 18th from 6-7 p.m. These webinars are free. To reserve your spot today, please visit: www.19thwardmobile.com.

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

- **Tuesday, June 16th from 1-2 p.m.**
<https://tinyurl.com/cubwebinar16>
- **Thursday, June 18th from 6-7 p.m.**
<https://tinyurl.com/cubwebinar18>

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. These seminars are 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!

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Spring is a Perfect Time to Purchase a Rain Barrel

Rain barrels capture rainwater from your roof and save it for later use. They help prevent basement back-ups, street flooding, and sewer overflows by keeping rainwater out of the sewer system. Rain barrels are available for purchase through the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago. Please visit their website <https://mwr.org> to purchase. Discounted rain barrels are available for Cook County residents at a cost of \$22.30 each (including tax and delivery), and \$11.15 each for residents 65 years or older.



19th Ward Home to Food Scrap Drop-Off Site

The City of Chicago offers a food scrap drop off location behind the 22nd Chicago Police Station in Morgan Park. The site located at 11059 S. Homewood Avenue accepts fruit and vegetable scraps, meat, bones, dairy, eggshells, and coffee grounds. Please register at <https://chicagorecycles.org> before visiting the drop off location. Residents are asked not to bring garbage bags or liners (including compostable bags). Scraps should be collected in a reusable container with a lid. The site is open daily from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. The collected materials are composted at the Harbor View Composting Facility.



City of Chicago Street Cleaning Alerts

Street cleaning season for the City of Chicago began on April 1st and runs through the fall. You can visit the City of Chicago's website to follow the sweep tracker map in real time. You can also sign up for alerts through <https://wethesweeple.com>. It only takes a few minutes to sign up and helps residents remember to move their cars when the sweepers are on your street.



Residents Asked to Respect the City of Chicago's Noise Ordinance

Please be respectful of the City of Chicago's Noise ordinance now that warm weather is upon us. This ordinance helps control noise pollution providing quiet hours from 10 p.m. – 8 a.m. Please be mindful of your neighbors and refrain from using motorized equipment to cut your lawn during these hours.

Children At Play Signs Available at Ward Office


The 19th Ward service office located at 10400 S. Western Avenue will have Children at Play signs available for pick up from the office beginning on Monday, May 25th. Signs are limited to one per household and available on a first come first served basis. The office is open from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.



BLOOD DRIVE

In memory of Cameron Fahey
Supporting the Cameron Miller Fahey Memorial Scholarship Foundation



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


About the Foundation
The Cameron Miller Fahey Memorial Scholarship Foundation honors Cameron's life and concern. Since its inception, it has awarded over \$130,000 in college scholarships to deserving Brother Rice seniors who exemplify Cameron's commitment to his fellow man and creativity in all forms. The Cameron Miller Fahey Memorial Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization. For more information, visit camsrusaders.org or call Brian Fahey at 312-315-8520.


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PAWS Chicago Brings Puppies for Adoption to Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

At the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, students in the animal science pathway enjoyed an opportunity for hands-on learning when they hosted "Adopt a Shelter Puppy" in early May. Held in the school's riding arena, the event featured several "stations" where students teamed with PAWS Chicago volunteers to care for a puppy and share information with attendees asking to learn more.

Knowing that all adoptions are made on a first come, first served basis, Beverly resident Sheila Tyler arrived earliest, to ensure that she could give Imelda a "forever home." (PAWS Chicago posts photos and some information about the dogs and cats featured at such an event.)

Mrs. Tyler began the adoption process by completing an application, including a "ComPETibility" Quiz. After providing personal information to confirm a good match, she then met with a trained volunteer from PAWS Chicago who reviewed many more details about Imelda, including her spay surgery, vaccinations, diet and medications.

The list of responsibilities for pet ownership didn't faze D'Niyah Phillips, a Chicago Ag senior, who looked after puppy Pumbaa during the event. She was so excited about her experience that she called her

mother and asked if she could foster a puppy. (Mom said "yes.")

Why fostering instead of adopting? On Mother's Day weekend, Phillips took the test to determine ways she might serve in the U.S. Navy, where she will enlist in August. So, her mom agreed to open their home to a foster puppy this summer. At Chicago Ag, Phillips joined the cattle and debate clubs and is a member of FFA (formerly, Future Farmers of America). She plans to become a veterinarian after her Navy service. She also played on the water polo and softball teams.

A few days after the adoption event at the school, Phillips and her mother Dominique visited PAWS Chicago in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. Juniper, a 2-month-old puppy who had been spayed the day before, was a perfect fit.

"She's very friendly and mostly black with some brown markings and the most adorable white paws," said Phillips. "A staff person reviewed all the details for her care, and we left with a big bag containing her food, some treats, bowls and medicine. Because I've grown up with dogs, cats and horses, my Mom and I are excited to have a puppy in our home again."

When asked if Juniper might make their home a permanent one,

Dominique Phillips replied, "I love having pets, too. I'll miss D'Niyah so we'll see what happens. It's bittersweet to think of D'Niyah leaving home, but I totally support her following her dream."

"This has been a wonderful experience for our 59 animal science students," said Katie McMahon, their teacher. "In addition to our main event, a PAWS Chicago volun-

teer met with our students to share information about the care of pets and how to address the challenges of so many strays. We are looking forward to collaborating on more experiences and programs during the new school year."

For more information about how to adopt or foster a dog or cat, visit PawsChicago.org/adoption.



19TH WARD PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP OFF & DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, June 13th, 2026
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

The Oasis Church
10835 S. Pulaski Rd.

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



Documents are
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- ⊗ Liquids
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- ⊗ Contaminated materials, such as gloves, tubing or IV bags
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- ⊗ Trash or other hazardous material
- ⊗ Illicit drugs (Schedule I controlled substances) such as marijuana, cocaine, heroin & methamphetamine

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Big Head Todd and the Monsters

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Chairs are not allowed on the football field. Bring a blanket, or sit in the stands!

The Ridge Historic District Celebrates Its Golden Anniversary

Part II: Beverly/Morgan Park is an “Outdoor Museum of Architectural Styles”

By: Carol Flynn

Beverly and Morgan Park’s location on the Blue Island Ridge, the highest point in the City of Chicago, and the architecture of the houses and buildings have always been the special features that make this a unique and impressive neighborhood in Chicago.

In 1995, Chicago Tribune writer Mary Daniels stated that Beverly was “like an outdoor museum of architectural styles.” She wrote that the variety of styles that could be seen on the Ridge “makes it one of Chicago’s architectural high points – both literally and figuratively.”

The Ridge Historic District (RHD), which will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 28th, was entered into the National Register of Historic Places to recognize and preserve the unique features of the community.

The establishment of the RHD was covered in the previous article. The designation was awarded by the National Park Service, which oversees the National Register, in response to the application prepared and submitted by Paul Sprague and his team, with expert input from the Ridge Historical Society (RHS) and endorsement by the Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA).

Sprague, a University of Chicago architecture historian and preservationist, and his associates had collected data for the Illinois Historic Structures Survey on historical architectural structures and landmark and archaeological sites. Following that project, they used that information to identify and further research significant locations in Illinois to recommend for the National Register.

Several of the people on the statewide Survey team lived in Beverly, and the Sprague group moved to Beverly as a business, Historic Preservation Services, on 103rd Street. Sprague and his wife, Susan Karr Sprague, an architecture historian, established their home in Beverly after they worked on the Survey project.

Most of the people who worked to establish the RHD have passed away during the last fifty years, but Susan Karr Sprague and Robert Wagner, the art historian and journalist from Beverly who wrote the application for the RHD, remain, and shared their memories of the project.

“We lived in Beverly and we knew there were a lot of important buildings that were well taken care of,” said Sprague; “this was the largest district we worked on – it was the largest district in the country at the time.”

Sprague did much of the initial research on the structures in Beverly and other areas of Chicago. This was before online resources, and

she said she “was in libraries all over Chicago, going through periodicals of the 19th century, recording building permits and photographs of buildings, looking for any information I could find.”

The application stated that the irregular boundaries of the RHD distinguished between the areas that were consistent with the visual impact of the historic area and those that were not.

“We drove every north-south and every east-west street in Beverly and Morgan Park. We looked for a cohesiveness and a continuity among buildings,” said Sprague. “Beyond a certain point, the continuity just wasn’t there.”

Robert Wagner’s writing skills and knowledge of art and architecture history got him involved in writing the application for the RHD. He had been a journalist with the Chicago Tribune and met the Sprague group because he owned a historic house in Beverly, the S. A. Tanner House, which was included in the original Survey.

Wagner pointed out that there were 62 “sites and structures of special significance” listed in the application, and they were chosen due to their architectural or historical significance.

“The ones that have architectural significance are all structures from the Survey,” said Wagner. “If they have historical significance, that was my own research, or came from the Ridge Historical Society, which was getting started. They were still nice houses, but they didn’t make the category of really major architecture.”

Some of the buildings that Wagner identified as being historically important included the Dickey-Harris House, the home of Paul Harris, the founder of the Rotary organization, and the William M. R. French House, the home of the first executive director of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Architecturally significant houses, of course, include houses like the Raymond W. Evans House and the Jesse M. Adams House, both designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Some buildings, like the Walker Branch Library at 111th and Hoyne Streets, have both architectural and historical significance.

A few other sites were also noted, said Wagner, such as the Heffron Memorial Sculpture, “Kneeling Child with Squirrel,” at the northeast corner of

103rd and Wood Streets, for “visual significance,” and Dan Ryan Woods for “open space and landscaping significance.”

The original application for the Ridge Historic District can be found online at <https://web.archive.org/web/20210121012515/http://gis.hpa.state.il.us/pdfs/200713.pdf>.

The wooden signs in front of some of the houses were a separate project, stemming from funding that BAPA received in 1981.

The formation of the RHD led to establishing three Chicago Landmark Districts. These are the Longwood Drive District (1981), the Walter Burley Griffin Place District (1981), and the Beverly/Morgan Park Railroad Stations District (1995).

It must be acknowledged that there are pros and cons to establishing historic districts.

Some critics consider historic districts to be impositions on communities that infringe upon private ownership rights. Potential homeowners do need to consider this when deciding if the purchase of a home in a historic area is the right move for them. Inclusion in a Chicago Landmark District comes with more restrictions than inclusion in the national Ridge Historic District does.

Beverly/Morgan Park residents, however, appear to not only support the historic districts, but to be protective of them, also. The districts preserve the community’s identity and foster pride in the community. They can help promote tourism, which can bring an economic boost to the community.

Beverly and Morgan Park were developed as primarily single-family residential neighborhoods beginning 150 years ago. They continue to be that today due to the wishes of the homeowners who have lived here through the years. Maintaining the historic districts helps keep the focus on preservation of that environment.

The Raymond W. Evans House at 9914 S. Longwood Drive was designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright and built in 1908. The original finish of the house was stucco; the limestone façade was added later. The house is listed in the application for the Ridge Historic District for its architectural significance.

The William M. R. French House at 9203 S. Pleasant Avenue is listed in the application for the Ridge Historic District for its historical significance. French was the first executive director of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his brother was the famous sculptor Daniel Chester French.



The Raymond W. Evans House



The William M. R. French House

Gill Sponsors Resolution Declaring August 27, 2026 Hero Day in Illinois

State Representative Mary Gill successfully sponsored resolution HR 649 declaring August 27, 2026, as Hero Day in Illinois to recognize the sacrifices of the first responders who gave their lives in the line of duty and to honor and support the families they leave behind. The 100 Club of Illinois was founded on August 27, 1966, and has served as a vital resource for first responders and their families throughout the State of Illinois for 60 years. Their mission is to provide resources, financial assistance, access to training, and moral support of families of first responders who were killed in the line of duty and actively servicing first responders in Illinois. They serve all sworn federal, state, county and local first responders stationed in Illinois.



largest provider of mental health training for first responders in the State of Illinois. They help strengthen resilience, wellness, and preparedness to responders who routinely face trauma in their line of work. The 100 Club of Illinois has helped 330 families of fallen public safety professionals, providing \$17 million in financial and emotional support. The bravery and sacrifice of fallen first responders, who protect the safety, health, and well-being of the people in Illinois, should never be forgotten and the public should honor these heroes and their families. August 27th is the founding date of the 100 Club of Illinois and marks the six decades of unwavering commitment to honoring fallen first responders and supporting their families.

The 100 Club of Illinois is the

UPCOMING BAPA EVENTS



RIDGE RUN & 100th MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
Mon., May 25 | Ridge Park

First race starts at 8am
Register now at BAPA.org



Celebrate 100 Years of Heroes
The Memorial Day Parade steps off at 10:15am at 110th and Longwood Dr. marches north to Ridge Park
Stick around for the family-friendly festival!



BAPA PORCH CONCERT SERIES
Rotating locations throughout Beverly/Morgan Park | 6:30pm
Fri., June 12
Fri., July 10
Fri., Aug. 14
Sat., Sept. 12 * Taste of Western *

Enjoy live music, food trucks, local restaurants and family-friendly nights!



GARDEN WALK
Sun., July 12 | 10:00am - 3:00pm

This year the tour kicks off at the BAC in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Beverly Hills/Morgan Park Garden Club. Enjoy a day in the sun touring beautiful gardens with tastings from local businesses. Get your early bird tickets at BAPA.org



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW AT BAPA.ORG



VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 10 A.M.
10402 S WESTERN AVE.

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State Representative Mary Gill,
State Senator Bill Cunningham, Alderman Matt O'Shea,
Candidate for State Senator Fran Hurley
and the Law Offices of Farrell, Farrell & Duhig
Present:

ESTATE PLANNING PRESENTATION

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

9:30 - 11:00 AM

Ridge Park

9625 S. Longwood Drive

Attorney at Law, Kathleen Farrell Duhig, will give a presentation on the basics of estate planning, including wills, trusts, and transfer of property.

Registration for the event is required and spots are limited. Please RSVP by calling the district office at 773-445-8128



Cunningham, Jiménez Work to Create County-Based Will Depository for Secure Document Storage

SPRINGFIELD - People's end-of-life decisions would be securely stored under a measure spearheaded by State Senator Bill Cunningham and State Representative Lilian Jiménez that would expand the will depository process and allow circuit courts to safely store wills for county residents.

"Planning for the future shouldn't come with uncertainty about whether important documents can be found when they're needed," said Cunningham, a Democrat who represents portions of Chicago and the Southwest Suburbs. "This legislation adds an extra layer of security and helps prevent confusion during an already difficult time for families."

The measure, filed as Senate Bill 3291 and House Bill 4722, would allow circuit court clerks from any county to develop, maintain and store wills before someone's death.

The legislation would establish a procedure for the clerk to accept, keep and return these documents back to the county resident depository with proper identification. Under the proposal, clerks could charge a \$25 one-time deposit fee regardless of the number of documents and joint wills for married couples.

"The documentation process for wills is difficult and especially more when figuring out who to trust to guard a will," said Jiménez (D-Chicago). "This legislation is a practical, forward-thinking step to give Illinois residents greater peace of mind when planning

for the future. It reduces the risk of lost or inaccessible documents and helps individuals feel more confident that their final wishes will be protected, organized and honored."

Senate Bill 3291 passed the Senate on April 14 and awaits further action.



Custom Cleaners and Shoe Repair Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Custom Cleaners and Shoe Repair located at 10457 S. Kedzie Avenue celebrated its 60th anniversary on Friday, May 1st. Congratulations to owner, Vince Picciola and his son, David Picciola, who assists with operating the business.



The Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association Gears Up for Summer/Fall Events

Please join the Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association (MPBHBA) for their upcoming summer and early fall events put on in collaboration with local business and community associations.

Margarita Mile

The Margarita Mile returns to Western and beyond this summer! In June and July, sip your way along the Margarita Mile – ten locations on a mile-long stretch of South Western Avenue will be mixing artisanal margaritas for this special promotion, joined by Barraco's on 95th Street and Chicago's only meadery, Wild Blossom Meadery, in North Beverly. More information will be coming soon. Please visit <http://on-western.com/margarita-mile/>. This event is cosponsored by the Beverly Area Planning Association.



Bevapalooza

Bevapalooza is back for its third year with another exciting lineup of music! Please join businesses in the 99th and 103rd Street Metra corridors for a family-friendly music, food, and shopping festival on Saturday, July 18th. Peruse sidewalk sales from food and retail businesses in both shopping districts. Enjoy children's activities, more food options, beer from local breweries, live music and DJs! Please visit www.mpbhba.org/bevapalooza/ for more details.

Black Business Month

The Community Connections Committee (CCC) will host Black Business Month in August. Black Business Month, a nationwide effort to recognize and support Black-owned businesses takes place in August. In August of 2023, BAPA, the 95th Street Business Association, the Mt. Greenwood Community and Business Association and the MPBHBA partnered with local businesses to bring this celebration to Beverly/Morgan Park and the 19th Ward. The CCC has the following goals:

- Highlight our Black-owned businesses and their unique offerings
- Build community among local Black entrepreneurs so that they can support and promote each other
- Help businesses expand their customer base by sharing information about Black Business Month in print, on social media, and through the CCC website <https://villageinthecity.org/community-connections-committee/>

Most events are geared toward business owners. There will be one Black Business Month event for the wider community at the 95th Street Farmers Market. More information will be announced on the CCC website.



Sip & Shop

Please save the date for this year's Sip & Shop taking place on Thursday, October 1st! This popular event will be back for another year supporting more than twenty small businesses on 99th and 103rd Street. Co-sponsored by BAPA and MPBHBA each year, Sip & Shop features specialty beverages and small bites while shoppers peruse special sales, fall merchandise, and the latest trends.

Gill Legislation to Provide Support to Students with Color Vision Deficiency Passes House

State Representative Mary Gill has advanced legislation to support students with color vision deficiency by providing schools with resources on color vision deficiency and requiring screenings before students enter kindergarten.

“Every student deserves to be in an environment where they can thrive,” said Gill. “But for many students with color vision deficiency, they aren’t given that opportunity. A lack of resources and understanding about the negative impact of undiagnosed color vision deficiency on students has led to many of them struggling in school. This legislation is focused on fixing that issue.”

House Bill 3408 will have the State Board of Education collaborate with the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide teachers with resources on how color vision deficiency can impact preschool and elementary school students’ literacy. Many educational resources rely upon colors as visual aids to



help students, and when students cannot process these cues, it can negatively impact their educational experience. The resources provided would help teachers recognize the symptoms of color vision deficiency, so that they can better support their students throughout the learning process.

Gill’s legislation will also require that color vision deficiency screenings are performed during the eye exam all students must take prior to entering kindergarten. If students are diagnosed before school starts, it can help guarantee that students are receiving the most from their education from the very beginning.

“We want our students to succeed, and that means meeting them where they are and giving them the tools to succeed,” said Gill. “Students with color vision deficiency deserve to have the same opportunities to learn, and with this legislation we are taking a needed step forward to help them thrive and grow.”

95th Street Farmers Market Prepares for the 2026 Season

The 95th Street Farmers Market returned on Sunday, May 3rd for another season of fresh food, local vendors, and community connection. Join us every Sunday, rain or shine, through the end of October from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the city-owned commuter lot (1835 W. 95th Street), where the space transforms into a lively neighborhood gathering spot.

We’re bringing the energy with live music each week from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., plus even more for kids this season! Cathy, our fabulous face painter, returns every other Sunday, along with a nail painter for kids, guest authors from the neighborhood, and crafts and story time with the Chicago Public Library – Beverly Branch.

Throughout the summer, we’ll welcome special community partners like Meals on Wheels, as well as the Beverly Ridge Lions Club at the

end of May. We’re also planning another themed month in partnership with the Art Institute—more details coming soon!

Come hungry—our rotating lineup of hot food vendors will be popping up all season long. Enjoy favorites like Windy City Burger Social Club (first Sunday of each month), Tilly Bagel Shop (6/28 and 8/23), Mother Prepper’s tacos once or twice a month, Sera Dining LLC serving Roman-style pizza (once/month), and more.

With a rotating mix of local vendors, artists, and organizations, there’s always something new to discover. Whether you’re picking up farm-fresh produce, shopping local, or just enjoying a morning with neighbors, the 95th Street Farmers Market is the place to be.

Help us spread the word—bring a friend and come see what’s in store this season!



Vendors returning to the market include:

- 2/Twenty Bakery
- Andy’s Sunflower Café
- Anjoli Candle Company
- Artisan Bread
- At the Root LLC
- Aunt Lizzie’s Baked Goods
- C.H.E.F. by Danni
- Coco’s Tamales
- Finn’s Ranch
- Honey Grove Inc
- Just’s NYC Cheesecakes
- La Juicy Jars
- MADE w/LOVE Organic Fruit & Floral Vinegars
- Meze Table
- Noffke Farms
- Nuts to Go Corp
- Parra Farms
- Piscasaw Garden
- Red Angel Sauce
- Southland Sweets
- Stamper Cheese
- The Supreme Bean Pie
- The Urban Canopy
- Woofstastic Company
- Yoberri Gourmet

The market is excited to welcome the following new vendors and pop-up vendors:

- Bia Rouge
- Evanly Cheesecakes
- Katrocentric
- Kora’s Kitchen
- Misericordia’s Heart & Flour Bakery
- Mother Prepper LLC
- Sculpt and Shred Fitness
- Sera Dining LLC

The market is grateful for its generous sponsors for the 2026 season including:

Premier Sponsors:

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- Southtown Health Foods
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Music Sponsor:

- The Studio Beverly


General Sponsors:

- 19th Ward Community & Youth Foundation
- Beverly Area Planning Association
- State Senator Bill Cunningham
- Fran Hurley for 18th Senate District
- State Representative Mary Gill
- State Representative Rick Ryan
- Core Fitness + Physical Therapy
- Beverly Improvement Association
- Christ the King Parish
- Republic Bank
- Friend of the Market
- Treadfit – Beverly
- The Fahey Family
- Molly & Skip Gilmartin

Please visit 95thstreetba.org for weekly updates and a sneak peek at upcoming vendors and entertainment. You can also follow us on our Facebook page, The 95th Street Farmers Market and/or our Instagram @95thstfarmersmarket. Let’s make this season the best one yet!

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026
TIME: 10:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M.




THE 2ND ANNUAL
CATCH-22

EST. 2025
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EVENT REGISTRATION WILL OPEN ON MAY 8TH.
STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS VIA OUR WEBSITE.

Sign up to be notified when registration opens via our website
www.esw202.org

Sponsored by

Rainbow Cone Celebrates 100 Year Anniversary

A century after first opening its doors on Chicago's South Side, The Original Rainbow Cone is celebrating 100 years as one of the city's most beloved culinary institutions. Founded in 1926, the family-owned brand has become synonymous with summer in Chicago, best known for its signature five-flavor "Rainbow Cone," an unexpected yet harmonious stack of chocolate, strawberry, Palmer House (vanilla with cherries

and walnuts), pistachio, and orange sherbert. As the brand enters its centennial year, Rainbow Cone is honoring its South Side roots while stepping into its next chapter with a series of high-impact activations, partnerships, and guest experiences designed to bring the celebration to life across Chicagoland and beyond.

Rainbow Cone will take center stage in a multi-week collaboration with one of the city's most vibrant

cultural destinations, bringing its 100-year story to an immersive, highly shareable experience. Details will be announced soon! In a season-long celebration of hometown pride, Rainbow Cone has partnered with the Chicago White Sox on the newly launched "Winning Inning" promotion – a collaboration that brings together two iconic South Side institutions. Throughout the 2026 season, fans attending White

Sox home games at Rate Field will receive a special Five-Flavor Game Card upon entry. If the Sox score in the fourth inning, that card can be redeemed for a

free small Rainbow Cone at participating Chicagoland locations. The promotion transforms every fourth inning into a moment of anticipation, tying the energy of the game to a distinctly Chicago treat. Winning cards are valid for 48 hours beginning the day after each qualifying game, with one cone per guest while supplies last.

Rainbow is also excited to announce a newly launched nationwide initiative inviting first-time guests to experience the signature five-flavor cone with confidence. If it is not love at first bite, it will be remade or swapped, removing the hesitation of trying something new while reinforcing the brand's belief in the cone that has stood the test of time.


Rainbow Cone will participate in the Beverly Memorial Day Parade with its iconic truck marking a rare alignment as both the parade and the brand celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2026. Two South Side institutions, born in the same year, will commemorate the milestone together. On August 29th, Rainbow Cone's official birthday, 100 guests who order an Original Rainbow Cone will be randomly selected to win free ice cream for a year – a celebratory nod to the fans who have fueled the brand for generations.



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Matt
O'SHEA

19TH WARD ALDERMAN



Scan here for more
information

The Road Home Program at Rush
1645 W Jackson Blvd, Ste 602
Chicago, IL 60612

www.roadhomeprogram.org
312-942-VETS (8387)

Atlantic Aviation and Barrington Irving Technical Training Partners with Morgan Park High School

Atlantic Aviation in partnership with the Barrington Irving Technical Training School (BITTS) works with high schools to provide specialized technical, STEM, and aviation training providing new, hands-on aviation career pathways to students. With support from Alderman Matt O’Shea, BITTS recently enrolled eighteen students in a program with Morgan Park High School. The first program runs through May of 2026 with a follow-up apprenticeship program taking place this summer. Through the BITTS Program, students will gain immersive exposure to careers in business aviation, including opportunities with Fixed Base Operations (FBOs) and Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul.

“At Atlantic, we believe aviation should be accessible to anyone with the drive to pursue it. This initiative is about opening doors – connecting students to real opportunities and showing them what’s possible,” said Jeff Foland, Chief Executive Officer of Atlantic Aviation. “We’re proud to partner with Capt. Barrington Irving, Chicago Public Schools, and the City of Chicago to help build a stronger, more inclusive future for our industry.”

As the aviation industry continues to face workforce shortages, programs like this play a critical role

in building early awareness and expanding access, helping students see what’s possible and where they belong in the industry. “I know first-hand how powerful access and opportunity can be. When our people are given the chance to step into this world and see what’s possible, it can change the trajectory of their lives,” said Capt. Barrington Irving, founder of BITTS.

Together, Atlantic Aviation and Capt. Irving bring a proven track record of delivering impactful, community-based aviation education programs across the country. Participating students will start their

journey through upskilling opportunities with BITTS with some students advancing to paid summer internships for real-world experience in aviation environments. This is

an exciting opportunity for Morgan Park High School, and BITTS looks forward to a long partnership with the school.



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Every Step of the Way Resource Center to Hold Catch-22 Resource Venue at Ridge Park

Every Step of the Way Resource Center for Intellectual Disabilities is hosting the 2nd Annual Catch-22 Resource Venue on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at Ridge Park on 1817 W. 96th Street (off 96th & Longwood Avenue), in Chicago from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The Catch-22 Resource Venue is a resource fair exclusively for adults with intellectual, developmental, and mental health disabilities. This resource fair is the first of its kind in the Chicagoland area. It is the brainchild of founder and board president Tiffoni T. Stepney and Kimberly L. Johnson, ESW community engagement consultant. The purpose of this resource fair is to provide access to various essential community resources and business

vendors and agencies across the city, suburbs and state of Illinois specific to adults with disabilities in one setting, since many resources become minimal for adults with disabilities starting at age eighteen and when special education entitlements end at age twenty-two. ESW is hoping to empower parents/guardians to take a proactive approach in preparing for aging out of the special education system, so they will not find themselves in a catch-22 when their loved one turns twenty-two. Adults with disabilities and parents, guardians, caregivers, professionals, family and friends of adults with disabilities are highly encouraged to attend. Parents and guardians of individuals with disabilities who are

middle or high school age are also encouraged to attend to prepare for transitioning through and aging out of the special education system.

The cost is free to attend All are welcome since many resources and services are applicable across the lifespan for individuals with disabilities. Attendees should expect raffles, live workshops, food for purchase and more! ESW's mission is to provide comprehensive resources and/or referrals on recreation, education, health (mental and physical), social and daily living skills and behavioral intervention for adults with mild to profound, intellectual disabilities age twenty and up focusing on their individualized areas of need through a parent and cli-

ent-centered approach. Every Step of the Way Resource Center offers virtual and in-person community resource information sessions, individualized resources for clients and families, referrals to professionals, group respite care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages eighteen- fifty-nine, community events, and group outings for adults with disabilities and their families.

Alderman Matt O'Shea of the 19th Ward, Al's Cookie Mixx, and the Arc of Illinois are sponsoring this event. Event registration will open on Friday, May 8, 2026. To learn more about ESW, details about the event and for sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.esw2022.org.

The Beverly Area Planning Association and the Ridge Historical Society Launch 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA) and the Ridge Historical Society (RHS) officially launched the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Ridge Historic District on Friday, April 17th, with a banner-hanging ceremony on the lawn of the Ridge Historical Society at 10616 S. Longwood Drive. Community members gathered to watch the first banners go up and to hear a City Council proclamation – proposed by Alderman Matt O'Shea and read by RHS President Paula Everett honoring this milestone year.

BAPA and RHS expressed their gratitude for the strong community response to the banner sponsorship program. The commemorative banners were designed by Mairead Schoenfeld, BAPA's Marketing Director, and Tim Blackburn, RHS Historian.

The Ridge Historic District, designated on May 28, 1976, stretches from 87th Street to 115th Street along the natural glacial ridge that gives the neighborhood its distinc-



tive topography. Its designation was made possible by forward-thinking Beverly/Morgan Park residents who recognized the importance of protecting the architectural character and historic homes that define the community.

During the ceremony, Tim Blackburn and BAPA Community Relations Director Michele McGuire shared historical context and emphasized the ongoing importance of preservation efforts in maintaining the district's unique identity.

The anniversary celebrations will continue throughout the spring and summer. Next up is BAPA's annual Home Tour on Sunday, May 17th, featuring several homes located within the Ridge Historic District. Tickets are available at www.org/home-tour/.

Rock Island Sets Summer Repair Schedule

104th Street/DOT No. 608-305G/Mainline Chicago will be closed from May 6, 2026, through May 15, 2026.

97th Street/DOT No. 609-012G/Mainline Chicago will be closed from June 3, 2026, through June 12, 2026.

119th Street/DOT No. 608-311K/Mainline Chicago will be closed from July 15, 2026, through July 24, 2026.

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Big Head Todd and The Monsters Will Headline the Fifth Annual Southside Summer Festival Presented by Marist, Saturday, July 18, 2026

Big Head Todd and the Monsters will headline the fifth annual Southside Summer Festival, presented by Marist, which will take place on Saturday, July 18th, 2026, from 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm. Opening for Big Head Todd and the Monsters will be Eddie 9V, and Back Country Boys, who will kick-off the afternoon.

Open to ages 21 and above, tickets are now on sale and are \$45 in advance (early bird rate ends Friday, July 17th at 11:55 pm), and \$50 at the door. Limited VIP tickets are available for purchase for \$165 and include beverages and light food. Tickets can be purchased on marist.net/southside-summer-festival/ or via the “GoFan” app. All tickets are non-refundable.

Day of admission tickets will be sold through the Go Fan app or marist.net/southside-summer-festival/. Southside Summer Festival will once again be a fully cashless event. Accepted payment for all transactions, including admission, drink tickets and the raffle area, include debit/credit cards, Apple Pay, or Venmo.

Neighborhood favorite Back Country Boys will kick the night off from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm, performing country and rock covers from the 1970’s to today’s top hits, in addition to their latest original material. Hailing from Southwest Florida, the

Back Country Boys are redefining what it means to be a young country-rock band. Their music blends the best of country, rock ‘n’ roll, and pop, into a sound that’s just as rowdy as it is relatable. They bring a high-energy show that gets people stomping and shouting, but they will also throw in a slower song that hits right at home. The Back Country Boys have played hundreds of shows across the country and have worked their way onto some of the biggest stages in country music. Along the way, they have had the chance to share the stage with artists they grew up listening to, including Jake Owen, Chris Janson, Parmalee, and Eli Young Band, and have made appearances at places like Windy City Smokeout, Carolina Country Music Fest, and Barefoot Country Music Fest. Each stop has introduced their music to new crowds, but no matter the size of the stage, their approach hasn’t changed: bring the energy, make it personal, and make sure everyone leaves with a memory worth keeping.

Eddie 9V, who will be touring this summer with the Black Keys, will take the stage from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Eddie 9V’s 2024 album *Saratoga* was a breakthrough — a raw, road-ready blend of Southern soul, blues, rock, and funk that helped launch the Georgia-born artist from cult favorite to national spotlight. Since its

release, his monthly Spotify listeners have grown from 8,000 to peaking at over 800,000, driven by stand-out tracks like “Halo,” “Saratoga,” and “Love Moves Slow,” all now certified on SiriusXM’s Spectrum channel. Now signed to Dan Auerbach’s Easy Eye Sound, Eddie is gearing up for a brand-new album in 2026. With national tours, radio airplay, and a band firing on all cylinders, he’s proving that gritty, honest music still cuts through — and his best songs may still be ahead.

The evening’s headliner, Big Head Todd and the Monsters, will close the night from 8:15 pm – 10:00 pm. Very few friendships—or bands—stand the test of time, but for nearly four decades, Big Head Todd and The Monsters have done just that. The Colorado quartet—Todd Park Mohr, Brian Nevin, Rob Squires, and Jeremy Lawton—have built a lasting career on a shared vision, delivering blues-infused rock that resonates both onstage and in the studio. From their early days jamming in high school to their national breakthrough with *Sister Sweetly* and a string of acclaimed releases, they have remained steadfast in their commitment to their craft and their fans, earning milestones including 35 headlining performances at Red Rocks Amphitheatre and induction into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame. Their

12th studio album, *Her Way Out*, emerged organically from years of collaboration and live testing, reflecting the band’s democratic creative process and signature blend of driving guitars and soulful storytelling. Featuring standout tracks like the title song and “Thunderbird,” the album underscores the band’s continued evolution while staying true to the sound and spirit that have defined their enduring career.

Sponsorship opportunities at a variety of levels are available. For more information on sponsorships, please contact Maura Bruton at bruton.maura@marist.net

No outside food or beverages will be allowed; and chairs are not allowed on the field. Those wishing to sit on the lawn can bring blankets, otherwise seating is available in the stands. All seating is first-come, first-serve.

Southside Summer Festival has quickly become one of the area’s most highly anticipated events of the summer months. More than 14,000 people have attended over the last four years. Through the years, headliners have included Tributosaurus, Freddy Jones Band, BoDeans, and Poi Dog Pondering.

All money raised from Southside Summer Festival helps to support scholarships and financial aid for current and future students of Marist High School.

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• Adult diapers	• Pasta	• Boxed sugar	• Bar soap
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• Canned chicken	• Mac and Cheese	• Hot sauce	• Kleenex tissue
• Canned salmon	• Pork and beans	• Milk products	• Disposable latex gloves (lg & md)
• Condiments	• Baked beans		• Wrapped frozen packaged meats
• Corn muffin mix	• Hormel chili with beans		
• Cranberry sauce			

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

JULY 8

12 PM - 3 PM



Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry

11030 S Longwood Dr., Chicago, IL
 773-239-3013

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

Ridge Park Art Fair & Uprising Solstice Market Returns to Ridge Park

The Ridge Park Art Fair & Uprising Solstice Market is a free, family-friendly event happening from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2026, in Ridge Park, 9625 S. Longwood Drive. The fair will feature 40+ vendors selling fine art and crafts, live music, DJs, food, and activities for children including bounce hous-

es, face painting, and giant bubbles. Artist applications will be accepted until May 15th. Please visit: <https://beverlyarts.org/events/the-summer-solstice-uprising-art-festival-at-ridge-park-245/> or contact Dave Barsotti at david@beverlyarts.org to submit an application.



Peace by Piece Benefits from Earth Day Initiatives

Peace by Piece is now more than eighteen months old, meeting each Wednesday from 12:30 -2:00 p.m. in the Beverly Branch of the Chicago Public Library. The organization received donations throughout the year from retired crafters, estates and neighbors that are downsizing. These donations have been converted by the members into garments for newborns, blankets and cold weather accessories for the homeless and veterans, and tree wraps in our community.

The organization also created a framed flower board to honor the 100th anniversary of the Graden

Club of Morgan Park – Beverly Hills. It will be on display in the 19th Ward office for the month of June.

Interested fiber artisans can email peacebypieceknits@gmail.com for more information.



Everyone, but Especially Those with Dementia, Needs Their Sleep

Shakespeare called sleep the “balm of hurt minds.” Today most of us know that sleep, in sufficient quantity and quality, is a vital part of overall health and mood. But for people with dementia (and their caregivers) sleep — and particularly its absence — colors each day’s experience to an even greater degree.



Alice Keane
Photo by Marc Monaghan

“A Good Night’s Sleep” is the topic for exploration at the next monthly meeting of the Smith Village Caregiver Support Group, 6:30 pm, Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 2320 West 113th Place in Chicago.

“We will focus on the importance of sleep for someone with Alzheimer’s disease, and on how managing fatigue can make or break their day — and affect a caregiver’s experience as well,” says Smith Village resident Alice Keane, who will guide the discussion alongside Bridget Murphy, Smith Village’s life enrichment director. (Both women are accredited by the national Alzheimer’s Association.)

“For instance, a person with Al-

zheimer’s disease can become overstimulated from too many activities or too much coffee. Or perhaps they’ve been sleeping too much during the day, or maybe going to bed too early at night,” Keane adds. Such changes in routine can affect the quality of sleep, or lead to insomnia, making it

more difficult than usual to organize thoughts and deal with daily events. This also complicates caregivers’ attempts to reduce the stress that can arise.

Keane emphasizes that there are proven strategies to address these problems. “For one example, a sleep disturbance could be the result of a medical issue,” she explains. “Once a caregiver knows the ‘why’ of their loved one’s fatigue, they are better equipped to solve the problem.”

The Smith Village Caregiver Support Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month. To reserve a spot, call 773-474-7302. For more information about Smith Village, visit SmithVillage.com.

Learn How to Spot and Act When Suspecting Online and Phone Scams

“Recently a 19th Ward resident’s daughter sent me what looked like an official letter asking for an immediate renewal and payment for a homeowner’s insurance policy that her parents received. If they had not shown her this letter because they had never before received such a notice, they could have become victims of a scam,” said 19th Ward Alderman Matt O’Shea.

“Fortunately, no harm came to this family. This incident, however, prompted me to contact Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart’s office to request a presentation about new ways nefarious people are trying to separate good people from their hard-earned money,” O’Shea explained.

Mercy Circle will host a presentation by the Cook County Sheriff’s

Office between 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 18th. To make a reservation, please call the 19th Ward Office at (773) 238-8766. Mercy Circle’s parking lot is accessible at the intersection of 100th Street and Central Park Avenue.

According to the July 2025 “Online Scams and Attacks in America Today” report by the Pew Research Center, more than 73% of U.S. adults have received an email, text or call from a swindler. Skyrocketing internet crimes reached a record \$16.6 billion in losses reported to the FBI in 2024.

For its report the Pew Research Center surveyed 9,397 adults of all ages. While those under 64 years old reported the highest percentage of being victims, adults 65 and older were a close second in being scammed. The difference between these two groups is that most younger adults still have the ability to earn money to replace their loss, while older adults living on a fixed income cannot.

During the June 18th presentation at Mercy Circle, the Sheriff’s experts on this kind of criminal behavior will share insights into how gifters use pressure tactics to influence smart people to respond quickly, because someone is in need or in danger or resources are

needed to pay a debt for a loved one of themselves.

Participants can learn about some of the newest ways charlatans are enticing people to hand over their money. For instance, fraudsters commonly instruct victims to pay using a crypto currency station, which are often located next to ATM machines. These transactions cannot be traced.

Seniors and their families attending this presentation also will learn how AI is making it easier for scammers to create exact replicas of official notices, now perfectly written without typos and grammatical errors, that include the logo of a company, charity or government agency. It is easy to be fooled by them because people sending these notices about purchasing an item, winning a prize, or receiving a demand for payment are typically familiar with the sender. In fact, for many illegitimate online attempts, AI-generated avatars, used to imitate celebrities, are deep fakes but can be very believable. The Sheriff’s office also will share tips on how to avoid being tricked by someone during a phone call.

“Because many of us are optimists, it’s easy to believe that we cannot be fooled,” warns O’Shea.



The Most Overlooked Upgrades That Instantly Improve Home Value

By Seth Eller/Beverly Companies

When homeowners think about increasing value, they often jump to major renovations or expensive installs. However, the biggest visual and perceived value gains usually come from smaller, more intentional exterior upgrades. According to the National Association of Realtors, a well-maintained lawn alone can recover over 200% of its cost at resale. These are the details that make a home feel clean, maintained, and thoughtfully designed the moment someone pulls up. In neighborhoods where homes already have strong character, subtle improvements can make the biggest impact.

1. Clean, Defined Bed Edges

One of the easiest upgrades is redefining the edges of landscape beds. Over time, bed lines blur into the lawn, creating a soft, unmaintained look even if everything else is in good shape. A crisp edge instantly separates lawn from landscape, giv-



ing the entire property a more intentional appearance.

This is especially impactful on older Chicago homes where structure already exists. Clean lines complement brick, stone, and classic architecture, making the property feel sharper and more polished without adding anything new.

2. Upgrade the Outdoor Lighting

Subtle, well-placed lighting along walkways, up-lighting trees, or washing the front of the home completely, changes how a property is perceived at night.

It doesn't just make the home look better; it makes it feel safer as well. According to the University of Chicago Crime Lab, nighttime crime dropped by up to 39% after adding better outdoor lighting. A well-lit home stands out immediately on the block.

The key is restraint and placement. You're not trying to light up everything. You're highlighting structure, guiding movement, and eliminating dark areas. When done right, lighting quietly elevates the entire property and makes everything else you've done during the day carry into the evening.

3. Upgrade the Transition Areas

The spaces between major elements are of-

ten where landscapes start to break down. Think of spaces like where the driveway meets the lawn, the walkway meets the front steps, or the foundation meets the yard. These transition zones tend to collect weeds, erode over time, or become visually inconsistent.

Cleaning up and reinforcing these areas with proper edging, stone, or defined planting makes the entire property feel more cohesive. When these connections are intentional, the yard stops feeling like separate pieces and starts feeling like one unified design.

4. Use Structure and Color

Many homeowners focus on seasonal color, but structure is also what gives a landscape year-round value. Evergreens, well-placed shrubs, and ornamental grasses provide form and consistency. This keeps the property looking complete even outside of peak growing seasons.

A structured landscape also signals long-term planning. It shows that the property wasn't just decorated, it was designed. This perception plays a major role in how buyers and neighbors interpret overall value.

5. Choose the Right Plants for the Right Conditions

One of the fastest ways to lose visual value is using plants that don't match the environment. In areas like Beverly, shade from mature

trees and varying soil conditions can cause the wrong plants to struggle, thin out, or fail entirely.

When plants are properly matched to sun, shade, and soil conditions, they grow fuller, require less maintenance, and hold their appearance longer. Healthy, thriving plant material always reads as higher value than a landscape that constantly looks like it's trying to recover.

6. Create Consistency Through Repetition

A common mistake in residential landscaping is trying to include too many different elements. One of each plant, multiple materials, and inconsistent edging can make a yard feel cluttered and unplanned.

Using repetition, whether it's the same plant, the same material, or the same spacing, creates a cleaner, more cohesive look. This consistency makes the property feel more professionally designed, which directly influences how people perceive its value.

The Bottom Line

Increasing home value doesn't always require major construction or large investments. In many cases, it comes down to refining what already exists.

The homes that stand out aren't always the most expensive ones. They're the ones that feel intentional, maintained, and complete from the moment you see them.



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U.S. News & World Report (2026)



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At Smith Village, a Solid Partnership Brings Rehab and Wellness into Focus

"I am a powerful work in progress."

That statement is not a brag, but rather a confidence-inspiring boost at Smith Village, popping up among residents recovering from illness, injury or surgery. Some simply work to stay fit. The speaker is David West, the senior living community's charismatic wellness coordinator. His "catch phrase" motivates residents to do the work that ensures their return to health and independence. Maintaining strength and balance becomes increasingly important for all residents so they can live well.

West's schedule brims with a blend of group classes and individual sessions that traverse Smith Village's continuum of care, from residents in independent and assisted living to skilled nursing and memory care. "I tell them, 'In spite of any limitations, you have the power to make progress.'" he says.

"One of the unique things about David is how he empowers residents' mindset," explains Mariam Showola, PT, DPT. As director of rehab at Smith Village, she oversees all occupational, speech and vocational therapists. She also works closely with West to encourage Smith Village residents to preserve and build on their progress during rehab.

The success of the wellness

program is partly measured by participation. Not everyone automatically chooses wellness classes after therapy, so Showola and West are motivating residents to try it. "Rehab benefits aside, some actually see the need for rehab as a negative," Showola admits. To increase participation, she has started a screening program for assisted living residents, to assess their needs and suggest recommendations.

For his part, West works on establishing a strong sense of community in his classes, which has led those who participate to spread the word. "So grateful that our residents want to tell others about the good work I do with them, West said."

West brings an impressively wide-ranging resume to his work. He has a degree in economics from Lake Forest College, where he also studied psychology. An assistant pastor at a church on Chicago's north side, he credits his faith for his ability to promote a positive environment in his work. For 20 years, he has been a certified physical trainer and has coached boxing — which, surprisingly, he incorporates into his classes.

Showola, whose Nigerian parents raised her for the most part in the United Kingdom, earned her doctorate at Marymount University

in Virginia. She has "about 16 years" in management positions but started her career as a physical therapist focused on geriatric care. She makes a point of holding onto those skills. "I still care for at least one resident each day," she explains. "I think it's important to have that direct contact."

Both arrived at Smith Village within a few months of each other in 2024. Their collaborative relationship — as well as mutual re-

spect among all therapy specialists — paves the way for Smith Village residents and short-term stay rehab patients' optimal recovery.

The whole process is less of a sprint than a steady journey. As Showalter puts it, "The therapists communicate what things they have been working on with each resident. And then David takes the baton."

To learn more about Smith Village, visit SmithVillage.org or call (773) 474-7302.



(L to R) David West, wellness coordinator, and Mariam Showola, director of therapy, discuss ways to engage residents and short-term stay rehab patients in making fitness part of their lives. Photo by Marc Monaghan

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Mercy Circle and McAuley Build a Bridge Over Generational Divide

When the high-school students from Mother McAuley arrive at Mercy Circle for a Thursday afternoon, it's not unusual for some of them to be nervous. After all, teenagers as a group don't have a natural affinity for senior citizens — especially those they've never met. In addition, says Susie Zajack, director of student life and Spanish teacher at McAuley, "When you consider that the pandemic hindered their social skills, interacting with seniors other than grandparents is definitely intimidating for some of our girls."

Adds Katie McKirdie, life enrichment manager at Mercy Circle "But then, by the end of the session, they're walking out and thinking, 'Wow, this experience was very different than I expected it to be.' And the next scheduled Thursday finds

them looking forward to fun conversations and working together on a craft."

Among her other responsibilities, McKirdie organizes Macs with Mercy, the four-year-old community service program that brings together Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School students and Mercy Circle residents. Each month, they team up to create a special gift for each family served by Pat's Pantry. Zajack's assessment of Macs with Mercy mirrors McKirdie's perspective.

"Watching the age-opposite groups interact," says Zajack, "I see that the girls realize how much joy the Mercy Circle residents get from spending time together. Even though the students are busy with their clubs, athletics and home-

work, they are excited to visit Mercy Circle again when Alderman Matt O'Shea celebrates their good deeds by hosting the annual springtime Rainbow Cone gathering for everyone who has participated during the school year."

Valuing these shared experiences runs both ways, as the students grow to know and admire the wisdom of seasoned seniors. "Many former McAuley teachers and administrators live here," McKirdie points out. "While they're not necessarily giving advice, they share experiences from their lives that might offer insights to the girls. Our residents inspire them to pursue ideas and goals in ways that they hadn't even considered."

Most of the Macs with Mercy get-togethers involve seasonally related, hands-on projects. In March, for example, intergenerational teams of students and seniors painted miniature birdhouses. Last November, they filled mason jars with dry ingredients to make cornbread to bake loaves for Thanksgiving.

All of these crafts are donated to Pat's Pantry, founded in 2021 by Kathy Cavallone-Turney, to commemorate the memory of her son, Patrick Turney, who died at age 23 in September 2019. Cavallone-Turney and her volunteers provide groceries every Wednesday afternoon for close to 75 Southwest Side families who visit Pat's Pantry at the Mt.



(L to R) Katie McKirdie and Susie Zajack stand in front of a statue of Catherine McAuley, who founded the Sisters of Mercy, as a young woman. They serve as the inspiration for others to carry forward the mission of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.
Photo by Marc Monaghan

Greenwood Community Church.

As an underlying benefit, Macs with Mercy can also serve a vital societal goal in removing the cloak of invisibility that often surrounds senior citizens — even older family members — that younger generations are often unaware of or ignore.

"We live in such a busy world," McKirdie notes. "Kids have such packed schedules. So Macs with Mercy visits like ours can be inspiring for both the younger generation and the older folks."

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



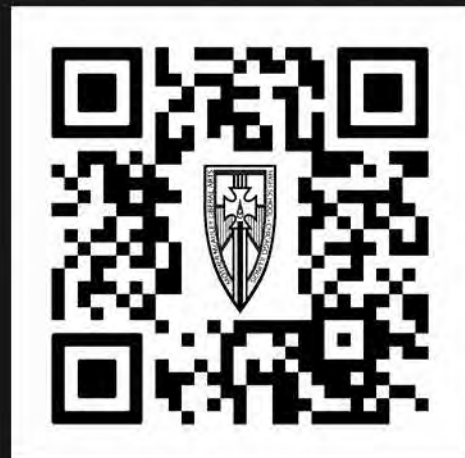
(L to R) Front Row: Mother McAuley freshman Evelyn Illaraza, Sr. Anita Talar, RSM, Mercy Circle resident, (L to R) Back Row: freshman Grace Wilson, sophomores Abby O'Connor, Keira Cushing and Annabelle Lyle



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