



Schools and Covid-19



By Dr. R. Pletsch

Stephen Sawchuk in an article for Education Week recently wrote about an interesting study. The study indicated that Fall School Reopening did not dramatically increase Covid-19 hospitalizations. The study out of Tulane University used hospitalization as its key, showing no increase in hospitalizations of those involved.

This was the first study using hospitalizations as its key health measure. This avoids problems with the way testing positive has been handled. Governments have shown that many people are tested many times to see if they are better and are counted each time as a new case. Then when they are bet-

ter, they are counted as a negative test. There are various rates of false positives.

Co-author of the study and assistant professor at Tulane, Enge Ziedan, stated that if we speak of hospitalizations, policy makers should be cautious. They did not address the new strain of Covid-19.

Data was obtained by Health Insurance Claims from Change Healthcare and hospital data came from the US Department of Health and Human Services. They looked at all forms of delivering schooling and collected data weekly in all the districts that opened from mid-August to the end of October, 2020. The research found in person schooling had no effect on hospitalization rate. The stats seem to have been collected with good guidelines done by other major studies.

This study had no vested interest and was looking for reliable data for district officials. I believe using hospitalizations is a good form because those that are Asymptomatic or only have a runny nose are not the worries that hospitalizations cause. In the school project there was no indication that any teacher was passed this disease from a child. I am laying this out to help you make your own decision. If you are interested you can look up the entire study. It is not an easy read, but available.

Enrichment Trees At Brookfield Zoo



Photo credit Jim Schulz/Chicago Zoological Society

Hudson, a 14-year-old polar bear at Brookfield Zoo, scopes out a Christmas tree with nutritious treats hidden amongst the branches. Several of the zoo's animals received the trees for enrichment.

With more than 650 of its own Christmas trees to recycle, the animal care staff at Brookfield Zoo repurpose some and provide them to the animals for enrichment. The remaining trees are mulched by the grounds crew and used in landscaping the flower beds around the park.

This week, the bison and reindeer seemed to enjoy rubbing their horns and antlers in the trees, and flipping them into the air. Hudson, the polar bear, along with 4-year-

old African lions Brutus and Titus, received nutritious treats, including bones, meat, or vegetables hidden amongst the trees' branches.

Brookfield Zoo is currently closed to guests through Feb. 28th. However, the public can still stay connected to the animals by tuning in to the zoo's "Bringing the Zoo to You" Facebook Live chats on weekdays at 11 a.m. The zoo is scheduled to reopen on March 1st.

Tax Loan For Senior Citizens

Senior citizens having a hard time paying their property taxes can take advantage of a loan program administered by the Cook County Treasurer's Office.

Seniors whose annual household income is \$55,000 or less can apply now for the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program, which issues loans to cover property tax payments.

The loans, which are issued by the State of Illinois, do not have to be repaid until the property is sold or the homeowner dies. A simple interest rate of 6 percent per year is charged. The maximum loan is \$5,000 per year. To qualify, homeowners must be at least 65 years old by June 1st of the year in which the application is made.

To apply: Download the application from cookcountytreasurer.co; Submit the completed application and copies of the required documents to the Treasurer's Office by March 1st.

Homeowners must reapply every year. The First Installment for Tax Year 2020 is due March 2nd, 2021, but late charges are waived through May 3rd, 2021.

Virtual Programs At Archer Heights Library

The Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer has scheduled a variety of programs for children and adults via Zoom. Register at chipublib.org the day before each program.

Reading Buddies will be featured on Jan. 23rd & 28th and Feb. 6th with Beginners on Thursdays, 4 to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 to 10:30 a.m. Independents will meet on Thursdays, 4:30 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Beginners - Beginning To Read On Your Own. These books have: smaller print with less white space, several lines of text per page, less repetition and rhyming, varied sentence structure, punctuation and verb tense, more complex stories, and less picture support.

Some examples are: *King & Kyla* by Dori Hillestad Buttlar, *Ling & Ting* by Grace Lin, and *Penny and Her Marble* by Kevin Henkes.

Independent - Reading On Your Own. These books have chapters, less pictures, rich vocabulary detailed phrases and sentences, and more complex plots and themes.

Some examples are: *Barkus* by Patricia MacLachlan, *Frog and Toad* by Arnold Lobel, and *Meet Yasmin* by Saadia Faruqi.

Citywide After School: Ask an Author is best for ages 6 to 9 on Thursday, Jan. 21st from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Join Ms. Mary and Alex for tips on what to include in your letter to ensure your favorite author writes you back.

Citywide Children's Programs will be led by librarians and presenters from all over the city.

For more information including how to register, visit chipublib.org/KidsCitywideEvents.

Citywide Story Time with stories, songs and

Mercado Wins VFW Essay Contest



Pictured from left are Michael De Ross, 3rd District Commander, Richard A. Mercado and Michael J. Maruszak, 3rd District Auxiliary President.

15 year old Richard A. Mercado, a freshman at Saint Ignatius College Prep entered the Veterans of Foreign Wars Annual "Voice of Democracy" Essay Contest

Titled: "Is This the Country the Founder's Envisioned?" under the sponsorship of P.F.C. Ted Stempion VFW & Auxiliary #8821.

On Dec. 23rd, he was the 1st place winner at Post Level and received a notification that he is one of three contenders for the 3rd District Level. On Jan. 3rd, an award ceremony was held at The Rhine Post #2729 where he was named the 1st place winner of the 3rd District. Proud parents Karen & Alan Mercado and mentors: Joseph Mercado and Hugo Lopez, witnessed the recognition. Due to Covid restriction, attendees were limited and the event was live

streamed.

His essay will advance to the State Level of competition and if successful, proceed to the National Level.

Richard graduated from Pope John Paul II Catholic School, was elected school president and the graduating Class Salutatorian of 2020. During his Boy Scout journey, he attained the Eagle Rank at age 12, earned all 137 Merit Badges, was elected Vice Chapter Chief of the Order of the Arrow, Ehalluchit Chapter and active with two Scout Troops (#1439 St. Symphorosa and #3201 Friends of Davis).

CZS Presents Virtual Lectures

The Chicago Zoological Society is offering a virtual lecture series featuring an array of fascinating topics about Brookfield Zoo's history, animals, and conservation programs. Following each presentation, there will be time for a question and answer session. Lectures, which begin at 7 p.m., are free, although a \$10 donation is appreciated. Online reservations are required and can be made at CZS.org/LectureSeries.

On Thursday, Jan. 14th, Andrea Friederici Ross, author of the recently published book *Edith: The Rogue Rockefeller McCormick*, will recount the life of the woman who donated the land that made Brookfield Zoo possible. Local character actress Ellie Carlson, will join the presentation by portraying Edith Rockefeller McCormick, who was described as a fiercely intellectual, unapologetically opinionated, and often cantankerous woman.

Randy Wells, Ph.D., director of the Chicago Zoological Society's Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, will discuss the world's longest-running study of a wild dolphin population on Tuesday, Jan. 26th. Wells, will share findings from the past 50 years, including the biology, behavior, ecology, social structure, life history, health of, and human impacts on Sarasota Bay's year-round community of resident dolphins.

Learn about the many facets of the Animal Programs Department at Brookfield Zoo, including nutrition, veterinary services, animal welfare, and husbandry on Wednesday, Feb. 10th. Bill Zeigler, senior vice president of animal programs for the Chicago Zoological Society, will present "The Zoo Beyond the Exhibits: Maintaining a Leadership Role" during which he will discuss how Brookfield Zoo's 2,600 animals are cared for.

"The Reign of Wolf 21" with Rick McIntyre will take place on Thursday, Feb. 25th. McIntyre, author of the Alpha Wolves of Yellowstone Book Series, has recorded more sightings of wild wolves than any other person in history. Having

spent years in the field observing wolves in Yellowstone National Park, McIntyre is considered one of the world's foremost experts on wild wolf behavior.

He'll speak about the true story of a wolf pup, called 21, whose father was shot and killed the day he was born. Wolf 21 and his seven siblings were raised by a single mother before a young adult male joined the pack and helped her care for the pups. Later Wolf 21 left the pack and joined a neighboring one as its new alpha male. He had an especially close relationship with female Wolf 42 that lasted for many years. When she died, he was never the same and did something especially poignant at the end of his long life.

Designated Illinois' state insect in 1975, the monarch butterfly is recognized for its beautiful orange and black markings and phenomenal migration. However, its numbers are declining due to climate change, pesticide use, and habitat loss. Find out what Illinois is doing and how the public can help the monarch during an informative discussion, "The Illinois Monarch Project: Helping Pollinators," on Tuesday, March 9th. Andre Copeland, interpretive programs manager for the Chicago Zoological Society, and Iris Caldwell, program manager for the Energy Resources Center at the University of Illinois Chicago, will share the state-wide action plan to add 150 million milkweed stems to the landscape by 2038.

The final virtual lecture, "Connecting One Landscape for Wildlife and People," takes place on Wednesday, March 24th. Ryan Lutey, executive director and Mitch Doherty, conservation program manager for Vital Ground Foundation, will give an overview on the organization's efforts to protect and restore North America's grizzly bear populations for future generations. Based in Montana, since its founding in 1990, Vital Ground Foundation has helped conserve and enhance approximately 620,000 acres of habitat.

City Speed Cameras Now Activated

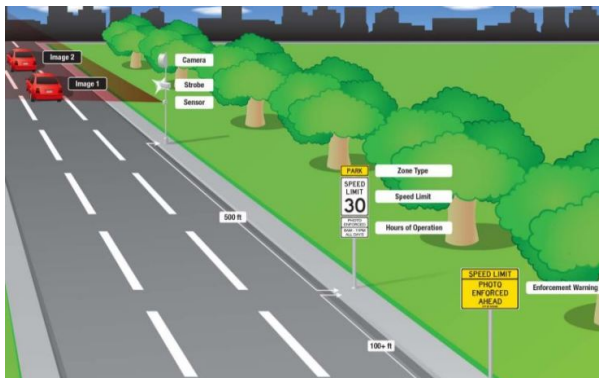


Photo Image by City of Chicago

Speed cameras located near schools and parks in the City of Chicago will begin ticketing drivers for going 6-10 miles per hour over the limit starting in March.

Effective now, drivers going 6-10 mph over the limit in "Children's Safety Zones" will receive a warning by mail. After March 1st, speeders will be issued a \$35 ticket.

Over 11 mph will receive a \$100 fine. Areas which have a speed camera are marked by signs and usually have a limit of 30 mph. Those found near schools are generally

enforced from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. while those in park zones are active from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., 365 days a year.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot included "enhanced fine enforcement" changing the cameras' limits as part of a budget which aimed to address the city's \$1.2 billion shortfall.

Shamrock Shuffle Opens March 19th

The Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle will kick off on Friday, March 19th and culminate on Sunday, March 21st. Shufflers can take part in the virtual 8K run, 2-Mile walk or The Mile by registering at ShamrockShuffle.com.

Participants will create a race experience in their own communities, set a goal and celebrate the accomplishment of crossing their own finish lines.

Create a hydration plan for your run to ensure you are drinking enough fluids and utilizing water and a sports drink to stay hydrated and maintain sodium levels.

Pay attention to your local weather forecast and dress for the appropriate weather conditions.

Participants will have access to their digital event bib numbers starting on Monday, March 15th. Shufflers can download their official bib number by clicking on "Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle" under the "Your Registrations" tab in their participant account. Opens a Dialog.

A digital Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle finisher certificate will be available to download after the race results are successfully submitted.

On Dean's List



Joseph E. Mercado, a freshman at Saint Xavier University was named to the Dean's List for academic excellence with a semester GPA of 3.75. The 2020 graduate of St. Ignatius College Preparatory was honored with a Congratulatory Letter from Dean, Robin Rylaarsdam, Ph.D.

rhymes for children 0-5 and their families is scheduled for Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

Citywide After School activities exploring books, science, art and more will be conducted Mondays and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.

Citywide Sunday Discovery takes a closer look at STEAM topics with hands-on activities. Biweekly Sundays at 2 p.m.

The Virtual Adult Graphic Novel Books Discussion Club will meet on the 2nd Monday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Topics are Feb. 8th: *The World of Edena* by Moebius and March 8th: *Huck* by Mark Millar and Rafael Albuquerque.

The Virtual Book Discussion Club will meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Topics are: Jan. 27th, *Curious Toys* by Elizabeth Hand; Feb. 24th, *Maggie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz; March 24th, *The Long and Faraway Gone* by Louis Berner; April 28th, *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter; May 26th, *The Starless Sea* by Erin Morgenstern; June 23rd, *The Last Time I Lied* by Riley Sager; July 28th, *Virgil Wander* by Leif Enger; Aug. 25th, *End of the Myth* by Greg Grandin; Sept. 22nd, *A Map is Only One Story*; October 28th, *OBOC*; Nov. 24th, *Girls Like Us* by Cristina Alger; and Dec. 22nd, *IQ* by Joe Ide.

Dean's List At DePauw University

DePauw University of Greencastle, Indiana announced the Fall 2020 Dean's List which recognizes students who achieve a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Local scholars are: Andrea Armas, Kimberly Bello-Rosas, Giselle Castaneda, Julissa Guillen-Barron, Ryan Kupiec and Aiping Li.

BrightonParkLIFE.com

To complement our weekly edition The Brighton Park-McKinley Park Life has launched a website. On it can be found general information about us, recent and past issues, advertising information.

Send neighborhood interest stories, student accomplishments, civic organization events to brightonparklife@aol.com.

Garfield Conservatory Winter Flower Show

Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park ave. will offer an introduction to Air Plants for ages 18 and up will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30th from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is \$20.

Greenhouse Coordinator Emilia Areliano will review the basics of air plants and demonstrate display options that do not rely on glue. Air Plant Kits will be available for purchase. Register at <https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/virtual-intro-to-air-plants/>

A Virtual Sustainable Seed Starting Class will be conducted on Saturday, Jan. 23rd from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Greenhouse Coordinator Emilia Areliano will review components in standard seed starting and potting soil mixes and explore sustainable alternatives. Materials will be available for purchase. The fee is \$20. Register <https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/diy-sustainable-seed->

starting-and-potting-mixes-virtual-class/

Lawyers Offer Phone Advice

Attorneys with the Chicago Bar Association's Call-A-Lawyer Program will be available to take calls at (312) 554-2001 from the public and offer legal advice on Saturday, Jan. 16th from 9 a.m. to noon.

Citizens may explain their situation to an attorney who will then suggest self-help strategies or provide advice to help resolve their issues.

If callers need further legal services or have questions beyond the scope of the attorney's practice area, they will be advised to contact the CBA Lawyer Referral Service. For more information visit www.chicagobar.org.

Virtual Memorial

The City of Chicago unveiled a web-based, virtual memorial to remember Chicagoans who have lost their lives to COVID-19.

Residents are encouraged to share stories and photos about their family, friends, and neighbors through an online form that can be accessed at www.chicago.gov/covid19.

Mui Honored

Kelly Mui (60632), has been named to Eastern New Mexico University's dean's list for the fall 2020 semester.

Honorees must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours with a GPA of 3.25 or greater.

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Forest Preserve Plans Nature Events

The Forest Preserve District will conduct an open nature play time at the Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th and Western ave. on Fridays through Jan. 29th from 12 to 4 and Wednesdays through Jan 27th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration for timed entry is required with Jesica.Becker@cookcountyl.gov or (312) 415-2970.

Nature in Spanish will be presented on Facebook Live from Sand Ridge Nature Center on Saturday, Jan. 9th from 9 to 10 a.m. Participants will learn some common nature words and phrases in Spanish as they explore a different nature topic each month. Beginners are welcome. Contact: (708) 868-0606 or sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyl.gov.

A Self-guided Walk and Talk will be available at the Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th and Western ave. on Saturday, Jan. 16th at 10 a.m. A Forest Preserve staff person will greet you at the trailhead. Information

Licensing Process For Military

IDFPR announces the 2020 Expedited Licensure Review for Military Service Members and Spouses Report, pursuant to House Bill 1652, now Public Act 100-286. Passed in 2019 by the Illinois General Assembly, this legislation seeks to expedite the licensing review process for Military Service Members and their spouses who are seeking professional licensure.

Public Act 100-286 expedites the license review process for Military Service Members who are an active duty member or whose active duty service concluded within the preceding two years before application. This review process also is applicable to spouses.

IDFPR has hired a military liaison to work with Military Service Members to provide tailored guidance when applying for professional licensure and built a dedicated website to support the process.

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chi.gov/heat

signs will be placed along the trail. For more information, contact (312) 415-2970.

Wellness in the Woods: Nature Meditations and Mindfulness will be presented on Facebook Live from Sand Ridge Nature Center on Monday, Jan. 18th at 1:30 p.m. Practicing meditating and mindfulness can help alleviate cold weather blues. For more information, contact (708) 868-0606 or sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyl.gov.

I'm a Scientist: Water in Winter will be featured on Facebook Live from Little Red Schoolhouse on Thursday, Jan. 21st at 10 a.m. Participants will be investigating and conducting an experiment that demonstrates how winter weather effects water. Visit the Little Red Schoolhouse Facebook page a week prior for a list of the materials needed to follow along at home. For more information, contact (708) 839-6897 or littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyl.gov.

A Zoom presentation on Winter Survival: Mammals Edition will be conducted on Saturday, Jan. 23rd at 1 p.m. Ages 12 & up will learn how some of the mammals in Cook County are surviving the winter. Registration is required with Crabtree at (847) 381-6592 or Crabtree.NatureCenter@cookcountyl.gov.

Resource Help For Depression

If you or someone you love is struggling with depression or thinking about suicide, get help at 1-800-273-TALK, a free resource that is available 24 hours a day. The Crisis Text Line is free 24/7 where counselors support individuals in crisis. Text "Jason" to 741741.

The Jason Foundation is dedicated to the prevention of youth suicide through educational programs. Many times, a young person will exhibit clear warning signs prior to an attempt. By knowing the warnings signs, and knowing how to help, you could save a life. Visit www.jasonfoundation.com.

JOEL BARRERA, passed away on Jan. 3rd at the age of 73. Visitation was held at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.



CLARA H. CACHRO (nee Svacik) passed away on Dec. 30th at the age of 99. She was the wife of 74 years to late Andrew J. Cachro; mother of Andrew J. Cachro III, Sandra (Paul) Lisula and late Kenneth (late Mary Ann) Cachro; grandmother of Richard Lisula, Suzanne Lisula and Steven (Hope) Lisula; great-grandmother of Lacey and Tegan and great-great-grandmother of Madyson, Hazel and Sloan; daughter of late Joseph & late Margaret Savcik (nee Mazurek); sister of late Helen Svacik, late Mary (late Bruno) Rache, late Margaret (late Joseph) Kasper and late Joseph (late Angeline) Svacik. Former tavern owner of the Hunky Dory Inn at 44th and Wood. Funeral services were held Jan. 12th from Wolniak Funeral Home, to St. Bruno Church. Entombment was at Resurrection Garden Mausoleum.



CORINNE LESSNER passed away on Dec. 31st at the age of 85. Born in her lifelong home in Bridgeport, she was a graduate of Kelly High School. Corinne worked for over 40 years as a legal secretary. Survivors are her children Kathi Schafer, Debbie Bristow and Dan Lessner; grandchildren Jonathan Bristow, Justin Bristow and Kristina Schafer; sister Diane (Patrick) Fitzgerald; aunt of Christine, Loretta and late Suzanne. She was the daughter of late Stephanie (nee Paulauskas) Lessner and Joseph Yunevich, and step-father George Lessner. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



JESUS LOPEZ JR., passed away on Jan. 3rd at the age of 13 after fighting a long battle with cancer. He was the son of Jesus & Lorenza Lopez; grandson of Elfego & Enriqueta Lopez; brother of Evelyn, Jose, and David; nephew of Francisco Lopez and Jose Martinez; godson of Mario Mendoza. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 8th at St. Pancratius Church followed by visitation at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart.



LEO MCINERNEY passed away on Dec. 21st at the age of 80. He was the son of Allen W. & Helene McInerney, brother of Joan Zahorik (Ed), late Allen M. McInerney, Bill McInerney (Maureen), Lynne McInerney and Tom McInerney. Leo joined the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers in 1958 and taught at Leo H.S., St. Lawrence H.S., Brother Rice H.S., Damien H.S (Hawaii) and numerous other Christian Brothers schools around the country. Memorial service will be held at a later date.



VIRGINIA ROSE NOMMENSEN (nee Derkowski), of Palos Hills, passed away on Jan. 5th at the age of 87. She was the wife of late Robert; mother of Cathy (Ed) Baid, Shirley (Brian) Bennett and Robert (Susan) Nommensen; grandmother of Andrew (Laure) Heikes, Matthew Heikes, Emily Heikes, Bradley (Annie) Bennett, Lauren Bennett, Sara (John) Tatum, Robert Nommensen and Jenna

Nommensen; great grandmother of Caleb, Lucy, Toby, Nellie, Mae, Levi, Graham and Henry; sister of Nancy Larson and late Leonard Derkowski, late Barbara Falada, late Robert Derkowski and late William Derkowski. Virginia was a retired nurse from Little Company of Mary Hospital and water colorist who showed her artwork at a variety of shows including the McCord Gallery & Cultural Center. Visitation was held Jan. 9th at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Willow Springs. Interment was at Fairmount Willow Hills Memorial Park.



VIRGINIA B. SANSONE formerly of Archer Heights passed away on Jan. 10th at the age of 82. The daughter of the late Joseph & Virginia Stainer (nee Martin), she married Fred V. Sansone, Sr. on Aug. 8th, 1959 at St. Catherine of Sienna Church, Oak Park. Survivors are her sons Fred Jr. (Dee), Gerald (Elizabeth), William (Van), and Dominic (Aneta); grandchildren Nicholas (Kathleen), Allison, Steven, Michael, William Jr. (Seleena), Maximilian and Alex Sansone, and Tuyet-Van (John) Wilcox; great-grandchildren Samantha, Skyla and Jonathon Wilcox; brothers Joseph III (Joanne) Stainer and William J. (Nikki) Mayer; nephews Jay (Brenda) Stainer, William Jr., Ian, Scott and Justin Mayer; great nephews and nieces Austin, Ian and Camden Stainer and Summer Stainer; half-siblings Gregory and Jeff Stainer and Pamela Hagedorn. Preceded in death by her husband, Fred Sr.; step-father William J. Mayer; and nephew Gene Stainer. A Mass celebrating her life will be held at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan later this summer. Virginia was active in Curie High School P.T.A. from 1975 to 1981 and retired from the Will County Assessor's Office with 14 years of service.

Online Yoga At Conservatory

Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park ave. will conduct free virtual adult yoga classes on Saturdays, Jan. 16th - 23rd; Feb. 13th - 27th and March 6th and 20th from 9 to 10 a.m.

This class works to lengthen, strengthen and stretch the body while clearing the mind. Reduce stress while improving strength and flexibility through visualization, focused breathing, and yoga postures with modifications for all levels.

Beginner to advance yogis are welcome to join. Pre-registration is required at <https://garfield-conservatory.org/events/>. This class is free, donations are welcome to help offset programming costs.



EUGENE F. WOJCIECHOWSKI, passed away on Jan. 1st at the age of 87. He was the husband of Barbara J. Wojciechowski (nee Vogel); father of Michael Wojciechowski, Brian (Debbie) Wojciechowski, and Lisa (Frank) Pape; grandfather of Tony (Megan) Pape, Matt (Betsy) Wojciechowski, Jeff Pape, Katie Wojciechowski, and Brett Wojciechowski; great grandfather of Danny and Caroline; brother of Lorraine Wojciechowski, Joann (George) Gorecki, late Ed (Jean) Wojciechowski, and late Leonard (Jackie) Wojciechowski. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, Lemont on Thursday, Jan. 14th at 10 a.m. Must register for Mass at (630) 257-2776. Entombment with Military Honors will follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL. Arrangements are from Petkus & Son Funeral Directors.

IDPH Urges Flu Shots

The Illinois Department of Public Health emphasizes the importance of getting a flu shot during the ongoing pandemic.

"This season more than ever, it is critical that Illinoisans get our flu shots," said Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "Flu and COVID-19 each can cause serious respiratory illness and coinfection could possibly lead to more severe illnesses, hospitalization, and even death. While a vaccine is still in development, a vaccine for flu already exists. Protect yourself and the people around you by getting the flu vaccine, which has been proven over the years to be safe and effective."

Everyone six months of age and older should get the seasonal flu vaccine which is available in a flu shot, or nasal spray.

More information about influenza can be found at www.dph.illinois.gov. More information about COVID-19 can be found at www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19.

Library Schedules Online Zoom Events

The Chicago Public Library has scheduled Online events via Zoom.

A knit and crochet circle meets on the 2nd and 3rd Mondays of each month from 6 to 7:45 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, all you need is needles and yarn. Register by 10 a.m. the day before the event.

Live one-on-one homework help is also available online everyday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. through Brainfuse. Students in early elementary through advanced college prep can get help with: specific homework questions, improving study skills, writing papers, ACT and SAT test prep and learning English as a second language. Use Brainfuse on any connected device or at home with your library card.

Songs and poems written during the writing circle will have the opportunity to be showcased in a virtual openmic. Register by noon on the day before at chipublib.org.

The Chicago Public Library will conduct online Creative Write About It! Writing Club via Zoom on Tuesdays, through March 16th from 4 to 5 p.m.

The staff of the Thomas Hughes Children's Library will conduct a 30-minute story time for children 3 to 5 and their caregivers on Fridays through Feb. 5th and Feb. 19th and 26 from

10 to 10:30 a.m. Register by 9 a.m. the day before the event.

Homework Help with a Virtual Teacher in the Library will be available on Sunday, Jan. 17th from 1:30 to 3 p.m. and Thursdays, Jan. 14th and 21st from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Students in kindergarten through 12th grade should register at least 24 hours in advance.

The staff of the Thomas Children's library will conduct 30 minutes of moving and grooving on Mondays, Jan. 25th and Feb. 8th and 22nd from 10 to 10:30 a.m. The program is suitable for children ages 0 to 7 and their caregivers.

Register for events at chipublib.org.

Coleman Graduates

Kaitlyn Coleman graduated with a degree in public health from Wartburg College of Waverly, Iowa during a Winter Commencement ceremony on Dec. 13th.

The four-year liberal arts college is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and named after the castle in Germany where Martin Luther took refuge disguised as a knight during the stormy days of the Reformation while translating the Bible from Greek into German.

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Tue., Thurs., & Sat. 8 AM Mass

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Masses at St. Therese

Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander

Sunday Masses

8AM & 10:30AM in English

Weekday Schedule

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass

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St. Therese: 312-842-6777 School 312-326-2837

This Sunday, January 17th, Mass on Facebook/YouTube at 10:30 a.m. in English

THURSDAY BINGO at ST. BARBARA

POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Chicago Rx Card

The Chicago Rx Card is a free and easy way to save up to 80% on prescription drugs at more than 59,000 pharmacies across the country including Rite Aid, Kroger, Osco, CVS, Walmart, Walgreens and many more.

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Daily schedule includes data entry, filing, scanning, shredding

Mon. thru Fri. 4 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Paid weekly via direct deposit

Full benefits package

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5 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2nd floor, hardwood floors, Tenant pays utilities, \$710 month + 1-1/2 months security deposit.

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6 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 2nd floor, coin laundry, tenant heated. \$980 a month plus 1-1/2 months security deposit.

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Avoid the congestion of the city, live in a park-like setting near forest preserves, transportation, shopping and schools. Located in Palos Hills, Scenic Tree Apartments has one bedrooms starting at \$891 month and two bedrooms starting at \$1,025 month.

Call (833) 373-0161 for an appointment

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(773) 523-3663

or email

brightonparklife@aol.com

Deadline Tuesday

12 p.m. noon

Real Estate For Sale

★★★★★★★★★★★★

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

DITECH FINANCIAL, LLC:

Plaintiff,

vs.

JESSIE PATTERSON AKA JESSIE PATTERSON-BATTLE;

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATES OF CLEMON

PATTERSON, DECEASED; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON

RECORD CLAIMANTS; CLIFFORD PATTERSON; NADINE

PATTERSON; RONNIE PATTERSON; HAZEL DAWKINS

AKA HAZEL PATTERSON; KENNETH PATTERSON;

LAVANCE PATTERSON; PHILLIPSTEIN PATTERSON;

JOHN J. LYDON AKA JACK LYDON, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF CLEMON PATTERSON, DECEASED;

Defendants,

17 CH 8078

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Monday, February 8, 2021 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 25-16-216-025-0000.

Commonly known as 10605 South Lafayette, Chicago, IL 60628.

The mortgaged real estate is improved with a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611. 19-032094 F2 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

intercountyjudicialsales.com

13161984

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PNI Public Notice Illinois

To Our Advertisers:

Please notify us if you find an error in your ad or if your ad failed to run. If you notify us on the first day it was scheduled to appear, we'll make the correction as soon as deadlines permit. We want to give you the best possible service. But if you do not let us know of a problem the first day, it may continue to run incorrectly. This newspaper will not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for a typographical error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for the errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad where the error occurred. Please check your advertisement EACH time it appears and notify us in case of an error (773) 523-3663.

Brighton Park-McKinley Park Life Newspaper is not responsible for mail delivery, for the reproduction quality of any "computer generated" photography or poor quality photographs submitted.

Real Estate For Sale

★★★★★★★★★★★★

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

BYLINE BANK, AN ILLINOIS BANKING CORPORATION

FKIA NORTH COMMUNITY BANK AS SUCCESSOR-BY:

MERGER TO ARCHER BANK, Plaintiff,

vs.

ODA P. ISA; CARY R. ROSENTHAL AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR DECEDENT MICHAEL J. KOZIEL

JAWIDT MOHAMMAD; LAWRENCE LAPIANA; JOHN J.

LYDON AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR DECEDENT VINCENT LAPIANA; CITY OF CHICAGO; HEBRON

AUTO SALES, INC.; HUSAM ASAB; MAXWELL AUTO

SALES, INC.; IHAD AFIF JUABA; SAMER RAHMAN;

SAMMYS AUTO AND TOWING INC.; UNKNOWN OWNERS

AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,

Defendants,

18 CH 5132

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. PIN Nos.: 19-13-211-031-0000, 19-13-211-032-0000, 19-13-211-033-0000, 19-13-211-034-0000 and 19-13-211-035-0000.

Commonly known as 5644-5652 South Western Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60636.

The mortgaged real estate is a commercial property operated as a used auto car lot. There is a receiver, Eric Maletsky of Malet Realty Ltd., 900 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL (312) 243-5397, Ext. 121

Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount. The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds.

For information call Mr. Scott H. Kenig at Randall & Kenig LLP, 455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611. (312) 822-0800.

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

intercountyjudicialsales.com

13161988

Discount Program For Military

Veterans, active-duty personnel, and other members of the military can now apply online to receive a free discount card offering reduced costs and benefits from hundreds of businesses through the Cook County Clerk's Military and Veteran's Discount Program.

Applications can be completed at cookcounty-clerk.com/MilitaryDiscount.

After completing the online application, veterans must submit the following to the Cook County Clerk's Office Veterans Service Office, 118 N. Clark Street, Room 120, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

One color headshot photo; One copy of the following proof of service (DD-214, VA ID, CAC Card or Retired Military ID) card; and If submitting a DD-214, one copy of the following government-issued identification (Valid Driver's License, State ID, Passport, CAC card, or VA ID).

Discounts range from a percentage of the service member's total bill to free admission to a theater, museum, or sporting event.

The list of participating businesses and additional details about the program can be found at cookcountyclerk.com/MilitaryDiscount.

6,642 New Cases Of Covid-19

The Illinois Department of Public Health reported 6,642 new confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including 117 additional deaths.

Cook County fatalities included 1 male 40s, 1 female 50s, 1 female 60s, 5 males 60s, 3 females 70s, 3 males 70s, 2 females 80s, 4 males 80s and 1 female 90s.

IDPH is reporting a total of 1,040,168 cases, including 17,743 deaths, in 102 counties. Laboratories have reported 93,491 specimens for a total 14,263,477, 3,553 patients were in the hospital with 757 in the ICU and 409 on ventilators.

The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity for cases as a percent of total test from Jan. 5-11 is 7.5%.

PUBLISHERS NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any Preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parent or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1 (800) 669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1 (800) 927-9275.

Bitcoin Yes! Blockchain What?

The future is linked to blockchain.

By Matt Rooney

More and more in today's news you are hearing about bitcoin – especially as its value recently hit all-time highs. Basically, bitcoin is a form of digital money. It can function as such because of a unique and ingenious bit of computer technology called the blockchain. While you may decide to never own any digital coins, blockchain has the potential to change how we transact business and hold our private information.

Without a doubt, blockchain is a complex system. However so is our cell phone and the internet and yet we have no problem using them every day. This series of columns will attempt to introduce, simplify, and explain the benefits of this new technology.

Currently our records are held by specific authority on a database contained in their warehouse; driver licenses by the state, medical records by the hospital, purchases by the credit card company, and checking accounts at the bank. Each of these records are stored in a centralized system.

Instead of a corporation having one large warehouse in a single place, imagine numerous houses spread throughout a neighborhood. Each house would be connected by the internet, not be confined by location – placed anywhere in the world, and not confined by size – as additional houses can be built.

This "neighborhood" system or network would be open to the public, provide transparency to information, and be practically impossible to falsify information. To verify accuracy, any addition or change made to the data in one house needs to be accepted by consensus of the entire network of houses. This is a simplified example of a decentralized system and how a blockchain works.

This protocol was first created in 1982, but it was in 2008 when the creator of the cryptocurrency bitcoin used this technology as the basis for its transaction and record keeping. Before discussing bitcoin, we need to know how it's built and why it has such a high level of security. Consider a blank sheet of paper and we begin to fill

it with information. As we continue onto the next page we insert a line at the top that is a summary of the previous page and give it a number. The summary now links the pages together. Page after page it is data, number, and summary.

This book of information we are creating has a major rule – once a page is written and accepted into the book it is unchangeable. Going back and trying to change data on a page would cause a conflict with the summary written on the next and all the succeeding pages after it. The attempted alteration would be rejected. Change can only be made with a new page that is proven to be valid and accepted by the rest of the book. So instead of pages think of blocks, each block linked to the next. The total forming a chain of blocks. This is basic construction of a blockchain.

Each block must contain four items: its number, time-stamp when created, data (e.g. text, numbers, pictures, etc), and the hash number (summary). No two blocks will ever be exactly the same.

Blockchain will allow the evolution of the internet from merely sharing data with one another to the transmission of value without requiring verification from banks, corporations, or governments. After all it's our information, we should control it. Stay tuned for the revolution and the next article.

Mr. Rooney (mrooney822@gmail.com) is a blockchain enthusiast and occasional crypto investor. This article is for informational purposes only. Please consult with a professional before making any decision. Copyright 2021.

Heating Repair Grant Program

The Emergency Heating Repair grant program is available to income-eligible Chicago homeowners for service to repair or replace their furnace or boiler heating system. Limited funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Open Enrollment Period is now until April 1st. Application packages are available by calling 311 by request through CHI311 app or visiting www.chicago.gov/housing.

Maximum gross income for 2020 is \$58,000 for 2 people. Add \$7,000 for each additional person.

The program is open to Chicagoans who own and occupy a 1-to-4 unit residential property within the city limits. The property must be inhabitable condition and not a risk of foreclosure. Commercial and mixed-use properties do not qualify.

For more information, call (312) 744-3653 or doh@cityofchicago.org.

Virtual Class For Citizenship

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council is offering free citizenship classes via WhatsApp. To register, call Adrianna Morales at (773) 540-4033.

Virtual Class For Citizenship

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council is offering free citizenship classes via WhatsApp. To register, call Adrianna Morales at (773) 540-4033.

Call4Calm

text "TALK" to 5-5-2-0-2-0

The Illinois Department of Human Services' Mental Health Division has launched a free-of-charge emotional support text line for Illinois residents experiencing stress and mental health issues related to COVID-19.

Individuals who would like to speak with a mental health professional can text "TALK" to 5-5-2-0-2-0, or for Spanish "HABLAR" to the same number: 5-5-2-0-2-0

Call4Calm is free to use, and individuals will remain anonymous. Once a resident sends a text to the hotline, within 24 hours they will receive a call from a counselor employed by a local community mental health center to provide support.

Individuals can also text 5-5-2-0-2-0, with key words such as "unemployment" or "food" or "shelter" and will receive information on how to navigate and access supports and services

IL Supreme Court Goes Remote

The Illinois Supreme Court will hold oral arguments via the Zoom videoconference platform when it hears cases for its first term of 2021.

"I would like to thank counsel and the new admittees for their cooperation in holding these events remotely," Chief Justice Anne M. Burke said. "We strive to ensure access to justice while maintaining the health and safety of everyone in the court system."

The public is invited to view oral arguments at <https://livestream.com/blueroomstream>.

The bar admission ceremony for 1,590 new attorneys was held remotely on Jan. 14th with Justice Rita B. Garman presiding. Candidates passed the Illinois State Bar Examination and a required ethics examination and were certified by the Supreme Court Committee on Character and Fitness.

Chgo. Park District Opens Ice Rinks

The Chicago Park District operates ice rinks at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd., phone (312) 747-5992 and Wentworth Park, 5625 S. Mobile, phone (312) 442-2194. Admission is free, skate rental is \$7 for all ages.

McKinley Park offers open skate on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m., Fridays from 1:30 to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 6 p.m. Saturday events are 10 to 10:45 a.m., Stick & Puck; 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. Pond Hockey; 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Learn to Skate and 1 to 9 p.m. Open Skate.

Wentworth Park features open skate on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 1:30 to 9 p.m. Saturdays events are 10 to 10:45 a.m. Stick & Puck; 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Learn to Skate and 1 to 9 p.m. Open Skate. Sunday events are 10 to 10:45 a.m. Stick & Puck; 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. Pond Hockey and 12 to 6 p.m.

Online Renewal For Motorists

Secretary of State Jesse White is offering a renewal program for drivers online via E-Check.

Go to www.cyberdriveillinois.com for these services: renewing a vehicle registration; obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card and renewing a driver's license with the Safe Driver Renewal program.

Holiday Food Distribution

Before the pandemic, Our Lady of Fatima, 2751 W. 38th place hosted a monthly food pantry in the church cafeteria. With donated produce from a local restaurant owner and an assortment of dry goods, volunteers would serve 55 to 60 families each month. Since partnering with the Chicago Food Depository in the spring, the church food pantry served more than 500 households every week. Though a majority of the families come from the Brighton Park community, many come from the city's North Side to the south suburbs of Cook County.

During the holiday food giveaway, the mood was festive with Christmas songs and volunteers in holiday gear. A line of cars wrapped around the block and another line of people stretched down the street on the other side of the church. For more information, visit chicagosfoodbank.org.

City Facility For Recycling

Dispose of your household chemicals responsibly and recycle your old computers by dropping them off at the City's permanent Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility at 1150 N. North Branch Street (two blocks east of the Kennedy Expressway at Division Street).

When thrown out with our garbage, household chemicals and computers, which often contain hazardous substances, such as lead, mercury, and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) can contaminate air, soil and water. Through proper disposal methods or recycling, these hazardous substances are reprocessed and reused in an environmentally-responsible manner.

A range of items are accepted including household cleaners, oil-based paints, solvents, cell phones, compact fluorescent light bulbs, computers and related equipment. It does NOT accept business/commercial sector wastes, explosives, fireworks or latex paint. Review the full list of items at [chicagosfoodbank.org](http://goofchicago.org/hccrf) in both categories before you visit.

During business hours, an attendant is outside, ready to help unload your vehicle and accept your materials. Materials should not be left outside the facility unattended. Therefore, please do not drop off any items outside of scheduled business hours: Tuesdays 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. ; Thursdays 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and the first Saturday of every month 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, 4477 S. Archer is administering the Emergency Rental Assistance Program for families who are experiencing a hardship with past due rent after March 1st, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tenants and landlords need to fill out a portal application to start the process.

For more information, call (773) 523-7110.

Rent In The 'Burbs!

We invite you to visit this quiet residential community located near the forest preserves in Palos Hills. Scenic Tree is convenient to shopping and dining at Orland Park and Chicago Ridge, excellent school district, Moraine Valley Community College and Midway Airport.

- Free Heat
- Private Patio or Balcony
- Intercom Entry
- Ceiling Fans
- Window Treatments
- Large Walk-in Closets in 2 bedrooms

- Spacious Apartments with Separate Dining Area
- 24-hour Emergency Maintenance
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One bedrooms starting at \$891 month

Two bedrooms starting at \$1,025 month

(833) 373-0161

10205 S. 86th Terrace #210, Palos Hills

Email: stleasing@mathenrs.com

www.scenictreeapts.com

apply online!

State Funding For Pandemic Assistance

Governor JB Pritzker administration has provided over \$1.3 billion in funding this year for businesses and families through COVID-19 emergency assistance programs. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has overseen the distribution of \$214 million in funding to over 7,500 small businesses through the Business Interruption Grants program, with the Illinois Department of Human Services providing more than \$269 million in funding to 4,987 childcare providers through the same program.

DCEO also oversees the Help for Illinois Families Initiative which includes programs that offer energy assistance to residents in need as well as emergency assistance for rent, temporary shelter and other necessities. The Illinois Housing Development Authority has provided \$325 million in emergency rental and mortgage assistance to 54,500 families.

DCEO has provided \$93 million in emergency funding to more than 155,000 households through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Community Services Block Grants programs, which are part of the Help for Illinois Families initiative. The \$275 million initiative was created to assist the growing number of families experiencing economic hardship, by directing additional funding from the federal CARES Act and an expanded eligibility threshold to ensure more families statewide could benefit from assistance on

utilities and other basic household bills.

Families are urged to claim the more than \$180 million which remains available to help offset costs on heating, utilities, water, rent, food and other forms of basic assistance. DCEO has taken steps to streamline the process, providing a new virtual application process, technical assistance and other infrastructure that allows residents to complete the application from their home.

For more information on how to apply and to find out about relief programs available, visit www.helpillinoisfamilies.com.

Check Cashing For Stimulus

The Illinois Department of Professional and Financial Regulation announced they have worked with banks to provide services for unbanked Illinoisans seeking to cash their stimulus checks without incurring check cashing fees. This service was provided during the first round of stimulus checks and IDFPF secured the same agreement for the second round.

Bank of America, First Midwest, Fifth Third, Huntington, Wells Fargo, JP Morgan Chase and U.S. Bank, will cash stimulus checks without incurring fees in order to ensure these funds go toward food, housing, and necessities.

Individuals interested in these options should contact the banks listed above, or email ILBanks@illinois.gov to set up an appointment.

Shedd Aquarium Closed To Visitors



Shedd Aquarium is temporarily closed, but digital doors will remain open and full of ever-evolving fun videos, experiences and programs. By participating in any of the paid virtual programs, you are directly fueling the aquarium's mission and helping to support animal welfare, conservation research and ongoing virtual education efforts.

Meet sea otters, penguins, or sea lions from home during a Virtual Animal Encounter. Two links for \$69.95, share this experience with a friend or family member.

Families can log on from the comfort of their home for "Zzzs Under the Seas" a Virtual Slumber Party with Shedd for \$125 per household. Explore all aspects of aquatic life, including up-close looks at animals at Shedd in their habitats or behind-the-scenes, and participate in hands-on activities, games and more. The next morning, enjoy breakfast with the belugas and yoga with the fishes.

Virtual Aquarium Adventures for grades K-5 will cost \$39.95. Meet animals up close, explore Shedd Aquarium habitats and participate in hands-on activities, games and more.

A free program, "Sea Curious" designed by kids will answer a question about animals by exploring and having adventures at the aquarium. There are 9 aquatic animal videos, 3-5 minutes each. Video topics range from "do animals play?" to "What do animals eat?"

A free program "Stay Home with Shedd" for grades 3-5 will feature underwater biology and aquatic biodiversity.

There are 4 aquatic animal videos, 10-15 minutes each, 3 student activity packets, 1 companion educator guide and 3 activity packets on biodiversity & conservation.

Swim with Sharks in 360 features sharks at Shedd Aquarium's Wild Reef and in the crystal-blue waters of The Bahamas.

Underwater Beauty Live Cam will discover the dreamlike patterns of angelfishes, wrasses, tangs and butterflyfishes.

Virtual Reality Penguins will explain how the aquarium cares for rockhopper and Magellanic penguins. Download the app to start exploring.

Social Isolation For Older Adults

The Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health, together with the Illinois Department on Aging, is sharing resources for older adults in need of support.

"The stress on everybody is growing every day. Plan for what you can, and focus on things you can control," said Paula Basta, Director of IDoA. "I encourage everyone to be mindful of our older family members, friends, or neighbors and check in to see how they are doing. Find a creative way to communicate with them during this time and monitor their health."

For those seeking assistance, visit www.dhs.state.il.us and click on "Help is Here," visit the IDoA website at www.illinois.gov/aging, call the IDoA Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 or by email aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov.

City Offers Free Mulch

The Bureau of Forestry of the Department of Streets & Sanitation offers free mulch at 2342 S. Ashland ave.

Bring a shovel and bags or other containers during working hours on weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

\$2.5 Million In Artist Grant Opportunities

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events announced \$2.5 million in funding opportunities for artists and arts organizations. The program includes \$500,000 to commission up to 10 public art projects and an additional \$250,000 for three to five regranting partners to distribute to smaller local projects. The annual "CityArts Program" opening Jan. 19th will award an additional \$1.7 million in grants to nonprofit arts organizations.

DCASE is currently seeking artist proposals for up to 10 public art commissions ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Projects can range from a physical artwork, to the transformation/repurposing of spaces or objects, to a happening or cultural event focused on any artistic discipline including architecture, culinary arts, curatorial arts, dance, design, film, literary arts, media arts, music, performance art, photography, public art, social practice, theater or visual arts. Projects will be prioritized that address public safety, equity and access through art; activate, repair or rebuild spaces on the South and West sides of Chicago; or activate communities and institutions to address broader social issues, opportunities and challenges. The guidelines and application is available at chicagoculturalgrants.org. Registration is available for an application webinar on Friday, Jan. 15th at 11 a.m. The application closes on Feb. 5th, at 5 p.m.

The Artist Response Program also provides \$250,000 for three to five

regranting partners to distribute grants of \$1,000 to \$10,000 to artists to create projects designed to engage residents in dialogue, reflection and action. This follows the successful regranting model that allowed DCASE in 2020 to partner with Arts Alliance Illinois, 3Arts, Arts Work Fund and the broader philanthropic community to create the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund. These partners, better positioned to respond quickly to crises and the complex needs of individual communities and neighborhoods, distributed financial relief to workers, organizations and businesses in the creative industries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizations interested in becoming Artist Response Program regranting partners can learn more and apply at chicagoculturalgrants.org. The application closes on Feb. 5th, at 5 p.m.

DCASE will release the guidelines and open the application for the annual CityArts grant program on Jan. 19th. Offering \$1.7M in grants to nonprofit arts and culture organizations of all sizes, this year's program will include opportunities to apply for general operating grants and project grants focused on rebuilding and recovery across all artistic disciplines. Project grants will support initiatives that have the potential to impact the Chicago arts sector at large. The application deadline is March 3rd, 2021, at 5 p.m. For eligibility requirements, grant calendar and more information, visit chicagoculturalgrants.org.

Brookfield Zoo's Facebook Live Chats



Chicago Zoological Society's animal care staff will once again present its "Bringing the Zoo to You" Facebook Live chats on Mondays through Fridays while Brookfield Zoo is closed in January and February. The weekday chats are a way to keep the zoo and its amazing animals connected to the public during its temporary closure before reopening to guests on March 1st. The chats became popular when the zoo was previously closed from mid-March through June to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Animal care specialists at Brookfield Zoo will share interesting and fun facts about many of the animals as well as answer questions from viewers. Upcoming educational and entertaining chats will feature an update on Pistachio, a Kemp's ridley sea turtle who arrived at the zoo this past fall; Humboldt penguins; North American river otters; snow leopards; Raisin, a Hoffman's two-toed sloth; and orangutans.

Those who cannot tune in, can access "Bringing the Zoo to You" videos on Brookfield Zoo's Facebook

page and YouTube channel.

The live chats, the Chicago Zoological Society's education staff is also producing weekly videos called "Bringing the Play Zoo to You," which are geared towards young children. Play partners will present a different theme each week that highlights ways kids can explore nature, learn about animals, and do fun activities from home. Posted on Brookfield Zoo's Facebook page and YouTube channel every Thursday, each of the videos are available in both English and Spanish.

BPNC Provides Mortgage Help

The Brighton Park Neighborhood Council is assisting homeowners in zip codes: 60632, 60629 and 60609 to apply for the Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program. Homeowners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic will receive up to \$15,000 to reinstate their mortgage and prepay through 2020.

For more information, contact (773) 523-7110.

ELECTRIC AND GAS DISCONNECTIONS ARE STOPPED

Call for financial assistance or to get reconnected:

ComEd (800) 334-7661
An Exelon Company

PEOPLES GAS (866) 556-6001

**CHICAGO**

CHICAGO.GOV



Capital Development Board Virtual Outreach

Sponsored by



ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR
ANTONIO MUNOZ
FIRST TERM SENATE DISTRICT SEVENTEENTH, MINORITY LEADER

Thursday, January 21, 2021
from 1:30PM - 3:00PM

Join the Illinois Capital Development Board Presentation PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS

Capital Development Board invites contractors, subcontractors, architects, engineers and suppliers to come learn about construction opportunities with the State of Illinois. An interactive Q&A will follow the formal presentation. Minority, women and veteran owned enterprises are encouraged to attend.

Don't miss the opportunity to learn about:

- ❖ Networking
- ❖ Upcoming Projects
- ❖ Bidding Opportunities
- ❖ Prequalification/Contract requirements
- ❖ Suppliers
- ❖ MBE/WBE/VBE requirements

Event Location:
WebEx

Once you register Eventbrite will email you the access link and access information to WebEx webinar 48 hours, 2 hours and 10 minutes prior to scheduled webinar.

Contact for more information:
Joey Moore
jmoore@carmonastrategicsolutions.com

Forest Preserves Invites Visitors



The Forest Preserves of Cook County invite all to Renew & Rejuvenate this winter. Preserves remain a refuge and a resource to get out of the house and get into nature, with all that offers, including proven benefits to mental and physical health.

Red Cross Issues Appeal

The Red Cross continues to be in need of volunteers due to an active disaster season. Volunteers are still providing assistance to communities impacted by wildfires in the West and hurricanes in the South.

Visit redcross.org/volunteer today to find out more about opportunities, including the most needed positions: shelter service, disaster health services and blood donor ambassador.

Make a donation at redcross.org, calling 800-RED-CROSS or texting the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

Schedule a blood donation appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 800-RED-CROSS.

Tree Recycling At Area Parks

Chicago's 2021 Tree Recycling Program will operate from Jan. 9th through the 23rd at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd., and Wentworth Park, 5701 S. Naragansett.

Only live trees without flocking are accepted (no garland or wreaths). Because the trees are mulched, all tinsel, ornaments, lights, and stands must be removed. Plastic bags used for transport should also be removed before putting trees in the stalls.



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