



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Parents Question Age of Students



By Dr. R. Pletsch

The more I talk with young parents, the more I realize that they are considering the options they have, especially with young students and those getting ready for high school. The parents of younger kids often question when students should start. The government seems to be telling parents they must start at age 3. You know your own children. Some are ready for pre-K at 3, others aren't even ready for Kindergarten at age 5. Every child, of course, is different.

One dad told me that he had seen no studies that putting a kid in school at age 3 is beneficial. At home, at that age it is better to teach religious and social values than can be handled in a public school. The needs of families are different. Some families are in need of having everyone returned to the workforce. But if the mom never worked, this benefit is a non-starter. Much

depends on the dynamic of the family. By the time the kids are in the grades, families have made up their minds if they will attend school, do something else that is offered by the Board, or participate in homeschooling.

I know several parents who are worried about their 8th graders because they are not sure they are capable of teaching the different subjects in a high school curriculum doing homeschooling. Several told me they are not able to find statistics showing the success of homeschooling compared to public schools. The statistics they see have been funded by, in some form, either the public schools or the homeschooling organizations. Those have a vested interest.

Some of the parents did not realize that what works for one student does not work for another even in the same family. They seem to trust the opinions of their neighbors and friends. They must be careful. Now we have the other dynamic of Covid-19. Do you trust your school's protocol? One of the moms told me that she had to leave work for several days because of quarantines in classrooms. She has 4 kids in grades 2-7 and it seems that at least one of them has to be home almost every week.

The parents are also stuck with news reports constantly raising the question of if the unions or the Board will force a closing of the schools. I tell parents when they ask, my opinion would be based on my situation and they must make their decisions based on their situations and always consider their children's future and health.

Opera Theater Schedules Shows

Chicago Opera Theater will present main-stage productions for its 2022 session.

In the spring at the Studebaker, "Quamino's Map," with music by the Belize-born British composer Errollyn Wallen will follow the London life of a formerly enslaved man April 23rd, 29th and May 1st, 2022.

As part of its Vanguard developmental series, a concert-style performance of "The Beekeeper," will be staged at the Studebaker on March 4th, 2022.

For more information, visit chicagooperatheater.org.

Pinochle Club Hosts Tournament



The Taylor-Lauridsen Park Pinochle Club meets at 704 W. 42nd st. on Thursdays at 10 a.m.; all are welcome. Pictured at the Dec. 16th tournament are Ruth Czarniecki, Marlene Chodor, Ken Wicherek, Jackie Delgadillo, Jennie Scuderi, Thomas Tiscornia, Jeff Menier and Rich Bertoni.

DPS Schedules Virtual Workshops

Chicago Recovery Plan community development grants are being made available to entrepreneurs, small businesses and developers, with the initial round open through January 2022.

The application process will consider a diverse array of improvement projects, including storefront upgrades; large development proposals with entertainment, retail and dining options; and projects that create spaces with public amenities. Projects may apply for the small grant program up to \$250,000 or the large grant program up to \$5 million.

The first-round application deadline is Jan. 31, 2022, followed by a second-round application deadline of March 10, 2022. Applicants who are not prepared to apply for either round are encouraged to review all relevant materials and prepare to apply for a third application round in the summer.

For more information, visit www.chicago.gov/ChiRecoveryGrant. An informational webinar will be held on Thursday, Jan. 6th at 12 p.m. CT, and a recording of the webinar will be posted to this site.

View the full virtual workshop schedule at www.chicago.gov/dpsev-ents.

First Look: Public Safety, Jan. 5th, 2 to 3 p.m. This session is intended to educate vendors about the services Chicago's public safety agencies provide and to learn what products and services the departments will need to procure in the next 12 months.

How To Become Certified, Jan. 12th and 13th, 2 to 3 p.m. DPS is the certifying agency for

Minority-Owned Business Enterprise, Women-Owned Business Enterprise, Veteran-Owned Business, Business Enterprise for People with Disabilities, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. Learn what documents are needed when submitting an application and how to avoid the most common mistakes in the certification process. Subject matter experts will be on-hand to answer questions about common topics.

Procurement Fundamentals: Doing Business with the City, Jan. 13th, 2 to 3 p.m. Learn about procurement methods and the laws which govern the process.

The ABC'S of DBE and ACDBE Certification, Jan. 19th, 2 to 3 p.m. Learn about the application process and benefits of certification as part of the Illinois Unified Certification process with the City of Chicago, Illinois Department of Transportation, Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and Pace.

DPS believes that everyone should have a chance to participate in the business of government. This includes participation by way of bidding on a contract, being a supplier, becoming a certified vendor, or learning about how to do business with the City.

The DPS website keeps the vendor community informed of procurement news, outreach, initiative and programs. Visit www.chicago.gov/dps to learn about: Current Bid Opportunities, Buying Plan, Procurement Resource Quick Reference Guide, Workshop PowerPoints and Rules & Regulations.

Website For Dance Company

Henry Roa, executive director of the Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago has established an account to ensure the existence of the organization's website.

The site contains a chronological history of personnel, dancers, events, awards, grants and recognitions. For more information, call (773) 247-1522 or email mexflora@ameritech.net.

On Dec. 9th, 2017 Henry & his late wife Juanita were honored as the inaugural recipients of the "Keepers of Culture" award for their lifetime contributions to Mexican arts and culture. A touching video, of their life, can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/IGc0CP67PUY>.

This site also serves as a vehicle to present Mr. Roa's 13 page paper on Our Lady of Tepeyac (Guadalupe as she is universally known).

Library Schedules Family Events

The Chicago Public Library has scheduled Online events via Zoom.

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.

The Clearing Branch Library, 6423 W. 63rd place offers in-person adult play of the ancient Chinese game of Mahjong on Fridays, Jan. 7th to Feb. 4, 18th and 25th from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Thurgood Marshall Branch will conduct weekly virtual American Sign Language classes on Tuesday, Jan. 4th from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Register 48 hours before the event.

Ms. Jenny from the Douglass Branch virtual program for babies aged 0-2 and their caregivers on Mondays, Jan. 17th and 31st, Feb. 14th and 28th, March 14th and 28th, April 11th from 10:30 to 11 a.m. This event takes place on Zoom, register 24 hours in advance.

Join Ellie from the Rogers Park Branch for baby story time on Tuesdays, Jan. 4th through Feb. 22nd from 10:30 to 11 a.m. The program will feature songs, rhymes, books and emphasize adult-child interaction. This event takes place on Zoom, register at least 24 hours in advance.

Visit Brighton Park Branch Library, 4314 S. Archer for in-person story time on Tuesdays, Jan. 4th to 25th from 6 to 7 p.m. For music, books

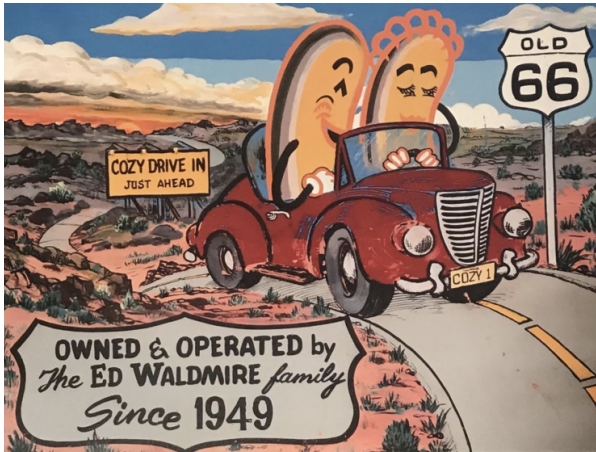
Census Bureau Data Workshops

The United States Census Bureau will conduct the Basics of Finding Date on Wednesdays, Jan. 12th at 10 a.m.; Jan. 19th at 12 noon and Monday, Jan. 24th at 12 noon.

These participatory classes walk you through examples that cover the basics of using data.census.gov to find demographic and economic data, including ways to search, options available for getting tables into Excel, how to map a table, and more. Time is allotted for questions. Registration is required and attendance is limited to 25 participants per session.

Request a data.census.gov training: ced.cedsci.outreach@census.gov. Request a training for your local area: census.askdata@census.gov. Ask your questions: census.data@census.gov.

Collecting Initiative For Route 66



Courtesy of the Illinois State Museum

The Illinois State Museum announces its Route 66 collecting initiative focused on expanding holdings of related historic objects in preparation for an exhibition opening in 2026 celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Mother Road.

The Museum seeks items that help illuminate Route 66's history, during its glory days before the interstate system and objects from those who continue to add to its story today.

Bob Waldmire's family has donated a significant collection of his art and personal belongings for the collecting initiative.

Throughout the 1970s, '80s and '90s, itinerant artist and peace activist nomad Bob Waldmire traveled from town to town along Route 66, creating and selling art and postcards. In 1985, he bought a 1972

Volkswagen camper van that he lived out of in Arizona. This van was later the inspiration for the character Fillmore in the Disney-Pixar movie "Cars."

The objects include original drawings, paintings, prints, postcards, a manual typewriter on which he composed his newsletters and correspondence, a pair of patched, cutoff shorts he wore when traveling, a roadside display stand for selling postcards and the hood of his 1965 Mustang, hand-painted with a map of Route 66.

Those interested in contributing to the collecting initiative can visit bit.ly/ISMRoute66.

Established in 1877, the Illinois State Museum is headquartered in Springfield with branch facilities in Lewistown and Lockport. Learn more at illinois-state-museum.org.

Holiday Events At Lincoln Park Zoo



Lincoln Park Zoo, 2000 N. Clark st. will offer a treasured holiday tradition, ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ runs from 4 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 31st, and Jan. 1st-2nd. A twinkling winter wonderland complete with festive activities, will feature visits with Santa, a holiday pop-up bar, an Enchanted Forest, Light Maze Presented by Invesco QQQ, sweet treats of all kinds, and much more.

The Light Maze Presented by Invesco QQQ will require one ticket (\$3) per guest.

The Enchanted Forest

experience brings a fairytale land to life with flowers, mushrooms, dripping lights, and magic in the air. One ticket (\$3) required per guest.

Snowy's Spirits & S'more, a holiday-themed pop-up bar, features s'mores over a fire pit, festive cocktails, hot drinks and sweet treats. Free to enter.

Zoo Year's Eve will be celebrated on Dec. 31st. Sponsors include ComEd, Invesco QQQ, Louis Glunz Beer Inc., Coca-Cola, 93.9 Lite FM, and Lysol.

For more information, visit lpzoo.org.

City Schedules Fireworks Display



Photo courtesy of Navy Pier

Chicago will ring in 2022 with a spectacular fireworks display from Wolf Point along the Chicago River to Navy Pier with eight launch points and synchronized music. WGN Channel 9 will broadcast the festivities live.

Central Park Post Seeks Members

Central Park Post #1028, The American Legion is hosting an all-you-can-eat membership recruiting breakfast for veterans at Les Brothers Restaurant, 87th & Ridgeland on Friday, Feb. 11th at 10:30 a.m.

Bring a veteran friend, neighbor or relative and earn a \$50 gift card of your choice if they sign up to become a member of the post. No dues for new members during the 1st year of membership.

Verification of veteran status is required at the door (DD214) with honorable or general discharge under honorable conditions.

RSVP by Jan. 5th to John Divizio (708) 423-5922 or jdivizio56@comcast.net or Henry Roa (773) 247-1522, mexflora@ameritech.net.

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. Opinions expressed by guest editorials may not represent the viewpoints held by the publisher of the Brighton Park - McKinley Park Life Newspaper.

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Church Services

St. Richard Church, 50th & Kostner and St. Bruno Church, 48th & Harding announce their Mass schedules for New Year's.

FRIDAY, DEC. 31st
4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass in English at St. Bruno.

SAT., JAN. 1ST, 2022
7:30 a.m. Polish, 9 a.m. English and 10:30 a.m. Spanish at St. Richard.

10:30 a.m. Polish and 12:30 p.m. Spanish at St. Bruno.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 2022
Saturday, Jan. 1st
4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass at St. Bruno.

Sunday, Jan. 2nd
7:30 a.m. Polish, 9 a.m. English and 10:30 a.m. Spanish at St. Richard.

10:30 a.m. Polish, 12:30 p.m. Spanish and 7 p.m. Spanish at St. Bruno.

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Holiday Events At Science Museum



Photo by Heidi Peter/Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago

Christmas Around the World and *Holidays of Light* return to the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, high-lighting the rich customs of more than 50 countries and cultures through Jan. 3rd.

The exhibits celebrate the golden age of travel with themed décor and a spotlight on the *Pioneer Zephyr train* and *Take Flight's 727*, which have been newly reimagined. Guests can visit Santa and have a souvenir photo taken with him on select days.

Volunteers from Chicago's diverse communities use handmade décor and personal mementos to decorate a forest of trees and displays that line the Rotunda and main floor.

Guests can learn why silver spiders are good luck, find out which country celebrates the world's longest Christmas season, and view intricate origami ornaments.

Visitors may take a photo with the 45-foot Grand Tree, featuring more than 30,000 lights. A special tree commemorates the Chicago Sky's historic WNBA championship win. The *Holidays of Light* are showcased in display cases that contain symbolic objects used to celebrate Chinese New Year, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, Hanukkah, Visakha Puja Day and St. Lucia Day.

Advance ticket reservations are required, book tickets online at msichicago.org/holidays.

Ridge Library Schedules Programs

The Garfield Ridge Branch, 6347 S. Archer, has scheduled an interesting schedule of programs.

The Adult Book Club will discuss "Orange is the New Black" by Piper Kerman on Wednesday, Jan. 12th at 2 p.m. and Thursday, Jan. 13th at 6 p.m. Snacks will be served. Copies are available at the circulation desk.

The Spanish Book Discussion group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. January 6th title is *Los Siete Maridos de Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid. The Feb. 3rd program will feature *El Murrullo de las Abjas* by Sofia Segovia.

Adults will enjoy fun games and conversation on Thursdays, Jan. 13th, 20th and 27th at 2 p.m. Scrabble, chess, checkers, playing cards, word finds and more will be available.

Create a Mask with a t-shirt sleeve will be conducted on Friday, Jan. 21st from 10 to 11 a.m. Participants must bring a t-shirt, no sewing is required.

Time for Tots will feature stories, songs, rhymes, fingerplays, numbers, letters and shapes on Mondays, Jan. 10th, 24th and 31st; Feb. 7th, 14th and 28th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Children will make a themed

craft to take home. Early arrivals can color or build a puzzle. This event takes place in person, register by 10:30 a.m.

Stories and Songs for ages 2-5 will be available on Wednesdays, Jan. 12th to 26th at 10:30 a.m.

On Saturdays, Jan. 15th and 29th, ages 2-6 will create and play with early learning toys and activities from 2 to 3 p.m.

Register for events at <https://chipublib.biblio-commons.com/events/>

New Law For U of I Admission

Illinois Community college students with a B-average or better will automatically qualify to transfer to the University of Illinois under a new law which takes effect Jan. 1st.

U of I will create a four-year uniform admission system pilot program, guaranteeing qualified students admission.

Qualifications include: graduated from an Illinois high school, earned at least 36 transferable credits at an Illinois community college, maintained a 3.0 or better grade point average for all transferable coursework, and satisfied the university system's English language proficiency requirement.

The universities will prioritize current state residents and cannot turn any qualified applicant aside unless the enrollment capacity is 100% full with state residents.

The U of I system encompasses three universities in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield.

History Museum Schedules Events

The Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark st. is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

On Jan. 8th, musicians and storytellers Amy Lowe and Megan Wells will perform a mix of commentary, theater and history about the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 from 1 to 1:45 p.m.

On Jan. 13th, Author Patrick T. Reardon will conduct a virtual urban history seminar from 7 to 8:15 p.m. The topic is, "Reporting the Loop: Newspapering to History Writing."

On Jan. 17th Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be observed from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with family activities.

For more information, visit ChicagoHistory.org or call (312) 642-4600.

Student Loan Pause To May 1st

The U.S. Department of Education announced a 90-day extension of the pause on student loan repayment, interest, and collections through May 1st, 2022. The extension will allow the Administration to assess the impacts of the Omicron variant and provide additional time for borrowers to plan for the resumption of payments and reduce the risk of delinquency and defaults after restart.

Borrowers are encouraged to use the additional time to ensure their contact information is up to date and to consider enrolling in electronic debit and income-driven repayment plans to support a smooth transition to repayment. More information can be found at StudentAid.gov.

Silver Skates At McKinley Park

McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. will conduct Silver Skates Speed Skating Competition for ages 6 to 17 on Wednesday, Jan. 12th from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m.

Adult skaters are invited to an 18 & over meet immediately following the children's meet.

For more information, visit chicagoparkdistrict.com

Holiday Magic At Brookfield Zoo



Brookfield Zoo, 8400 W. 31st st. will celebrate its 40th annual Holiday Magic, presented by ComEd and Meijer through Dec. 31st from 3 to 9 p.m.

The lights festival, features over two million twinkling LED lights.

The zoo's 41-foot-tall tree, located at the north entrance, is adorned with thousands of LED lights and choreographed to seasonal tunes. The walkways along the malls and around Roosevelt Fountain have more than 700 community and corporate trees decorated with ornaments. Illuminated animal sculptures, include a giraffe, bison, bear, and reindeer.

Photo opportunities include a 3D 16-foot-tall gingerbread house, luminous 20-foot-tall orb, holiday-themed festive frame, and Santa Claus cutout.

Guests of all ages can play the Game of Gnomes, and embark on a fun-filled scavenger hunt in search of 25 enchanting locations.

Indoor and outdoor animal habitats, including Tropic World, Pachyderm House, Big Cats, Swamp,

Feathers and Scales, Reptiles and Birds, Living Coast, Hamill Family Wild Encounters, Seven Seas underwater viewing gallery, Great Bear Wilderness, Australia House (front section only), and Hamill Family Play Zoo, will be open. Dolphins in Action presentations (extra fee applies) are at 4 and 6 p.m. each night.

Kids can deposit their written greetings and drawings for the animals in a designated box, and drop off letters to Santa Claus in a giant red box, on the South Mall.

Guests can take a spin on the skating rink, which is made of synthetic plastic. The cost for unlimited time for skaters on the rink is \$7. A limited number of skates are available to rent for \$5 fee.

Reservation times are available in 15-minute increments. Zoo admission and parking tickets, which must be reserved in advance at CZS.org/HolidayMagic, are \$24.95 for adults, \$17.95 for children ages 3-11, and \$19.95 for seniors 65 and over. Parking is \$15.

Obituaries

ANNA HAWRYLA (nee Lewandowska), age 62, of Burbank; formerly of Archer Heights; mother of Monika (Krzysztof) Mlynarski, Marcin (Marta) Hawryla, Malgorzata (Marcin) Wisniewski, Michalina (Kajetan Kopec) Hawryla; grandmother of Oliwia, Daria, Szymon, David, Amanda, Adam, and Matilda; sister of Danuta (Mieczyslaw) Kubs, Miroslaw (Teresa) Lewandowski, Malgorzata (Marian) Stawicki and Agnieszka (Tomasz) Kanigowski; daughter of late Zenobia (nee Staniszewska) and Stanislaw Lewandowski. Visitation was held Dec. 22nd at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Willow Springs. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 23rd at Our Lady of the Mother Church.

MARGIE WISNIEWSKI (nee Cook) age 95; of Orland Park and formerly of West Elsdon; mother of Linda Gleisner Peterson and Karen (Wayne) Kumke; grandmother of Candice (Tim) Blackwood and Nicole (Stacey) Decker; great-grandmother of Addison and David Blackwood; Emma, Audrey and Lydia Decker; predeceased by sisters, Beulah, Myrtle, Esther, Lorraine and Irene. Visitation and services were held Dec. 29th at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Willow Springs. Interment was at Fairmount Willow Hills Memorial Park.

Free Programs At City Colleges

City Colleges of Chicago is offering Future Ready which provides 60+ programs in select high-demand fields at no cost to eligible Chicagoans.

Eligibility includes: New to City Colleges credit classes or those that have been away for two or more Fall/Spring semesters and left CCC in good standing.

Interested in pursuing careers in fields as diverse as: healthcare, technology, transportation, distribution, and logistics, cannabis operations, auto tech, criminal justice, and more.

Undocumented students.

This is a first-come, first-served opportunity, and seats are limited. Enrollment for Spring semester is now open.

To learn more and see the list of programs, go to: www.ccc.edu/future-ready.

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"The Secret Forest" At Nature Museum



Photo credit: © Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

The Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon dr., announces new interactive exhibition, "The Secret Forest" which is designed to connect the youngest visitors with nature.

The exhibit offers canvas canopy tents, nature-themed camouflage flooring, new slides, and a campfire section with playful plushes.

The play area features exploration tunnels and a boat to steer on an imaginary river. A dedicated Story Time hub hosts the Museum's daily "story time" programs.

The *Judy Istock Butterfly Haven*, a 2,700-square-foot greenhouse that is home to more than 1,000 butterflies from over 40 species. Complete with pools of water, flowers, tropical trees and bird species from the Southern hemisphere.

Additional information

is available at www.naturemuseum.org.

Happy New Year

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Masses at St. Therese
Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander
Sunday Masses 8AM in English & 10:30AM in Cantonese
Weekday Schedule
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass
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St. Barbara: 312-842-7979 St. Therese: 312-842-6777 School 312-326-2837

New Year's Mass Schedule

St. Therese: NY Eve: 5:00PM; NY Day: 10:00AM

St. Barbara: NY Day: 9:30AM

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