



## Thinking About School Canceled



By Dr. R. Pletsch

During this time of change, decisions are being made for us -- not by us. This alone, brings about stress. Now for those parents, you add our children and schools to the mix and the problem can really be exasperating. Think of those memories you have as a child that some of our young ones may never have. Football and basketball games, proms, First Communion, your list could be very long or short. When I asked several kids what they missed so far, it was not school work, but some of those mentioned above. Many seemed to worry about graduation parties, especially for those that are the first in their families to finish 8th grade or high school or college.

I recently spoke with several school personnel and they were from many types of schools and many levels. They expressed their concerns for the kids and many are trying to lessen the blow on them. The University of Chicago is planning a virtual graduation. I'm not sure how you would do a virtual prom, but I don't want to be a chaperone. The schools I was in contact with all have ongoing distance learning programs in action. One

teacher helped distribute 200 laptops to students so they can help the program along. Another teacher told me all their kids have Chromebooks, but at least 10% of the student body have not done one lesson.

Many schools have formalized schedules with teachers available for the students. One teacher told me that he feels more like a technician as many of the questions that come from his students are not about the subject area, but about logging in, etc. It had been noted from another teacher that while we think of these kids as tech savvy, that's only the social media. The students are having problems with the school-based programs. Some schools have the teachers grade the work, some do not. These decisions of the schools may change in the future. So be prepared if it changes. What I can tell from the internet, all schools have lessons online.

The universities are well ahead of the curve because most have a design for distant learning. An administrator I talked with said that there are many no cost curriculum on the internet for all to use. Just make sure the school knows why, if you change programs so they can understand why.

I found most teachers had lists of free programs. They're all made by education experts that have been purchased by many schools so they were considered good by someone. As I read the numerous school websites, I must agree that most are very well written. In fact, they do such a good job that they make the school closures seem like a great thing. Reading this can make some think with all this free, why not home schooling. It might be an issue that is overrated, but I'm sure if the school districts think it's great, some of our parents may think so also.

## ComEd Offers Customer Support

ComEd is taking action to help its customers with payment assistance programs and by imposing a moratorium on service disconnections and waiving new late payment charges through at least May 1st, as many businesses and institutions are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by taking temporary measures to shut down or limit operations to control the spread of COVID-19.

Programs to help customers through tempo-

rary or extended financial hardship are in place and will be working with customers on a case-by-case basis to establish payment arrangements and identify energy assistance options.

Customers who struggle to cover their energy expenses have a growing range of assistance options. They will work on a case-by-case basis with customers who are struggling to pay their energy bills to help them remain in service.

ComEd offers payment options such as budget billing, which averages payments out over a 12-month period to help customers manage their monthly energy bill, and flexible payment arrangements, include payment installment plans. Customers who may be experiencing financial hardship should visit ComEd.com/CARE or call (800) 334-7661.

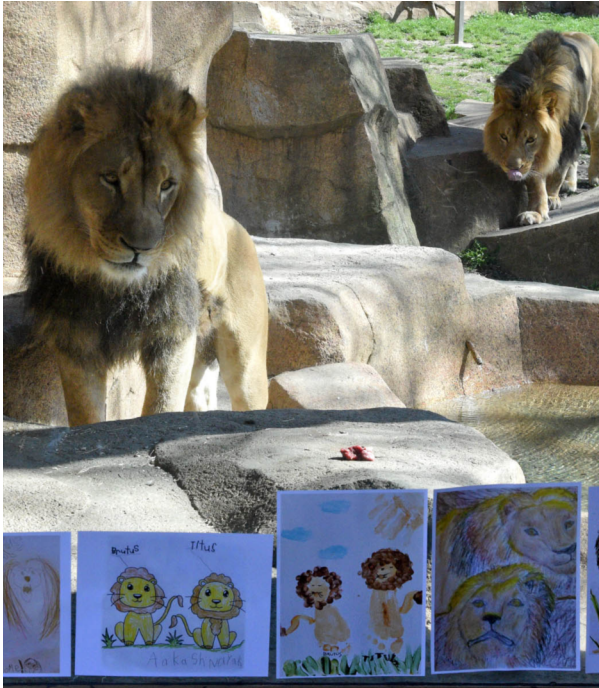
### Lyric Opera Postpones Season

The Lyric Opera of Chicago has postponed the rest of the season because of the pandemic. The musical "42nd Street" scheduled for May 29th to June 21st will be presented next spring.

"Blue" which was scheduled for June 21st to 28th at the Yard at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre will be staged next January.

"Proving Up" will be staged when a date is determined. For more information, visit lyric-opera.org.

## Zoo Appeals For Lion Drawings



Brutus and Titus, Brookfield Zoo's two male 4-year-old African lions, have been at the zoo since mid-March. However, guests have not been able to see them in person because the zoo has been closed since they arrived.

After seeing Brutus and Titus on one of the "Bringing the Zoo to You" Facebook Live chats, which are held weekdays at 11 a.m. CST, children began sending in drawings of the lions and mes-

sages welcoming them to the zoo. Staff decided to display the drawings on the window of the lions' outdoor habitat, which seem to have caught the interest of at least Titus.

Now, staff want to fill the entire window with artwork submitted by children. Original drawings and messages for Brutus and Titus can be shared on the zoo's Facebook page. They will then be printed and added to the window.

## CARES Act Grants For Older Adults

The Department of Health and Human Services is announcing \$955 million in grants from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to help meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities as communities implement measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The grants will fund home-delivered meals, care services in the home, respite care and other support to families and caregivers, information about and referral to supports, and more. Illinois is receiving grants totaling \$32,154,806.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provides supplemental funding for programs authorized by the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. Through these programs, a network of community-based organizations, such as Area Agencies on Aging,

Centers for Independent Living, senior centers, faith-based organizations, and other non-profits provide a vast array of resources and services to help older adults and people with disabilities stay healthy and live independently.

The need for these services has increased as community measures to slow transmission of COVID-19 have closed locations where many people typically receive services and made it difficult for families to assist loved ones who live alone. The adaptations necessary to provide these services in the current environment have increased costs to service providers.

Older adults who need assistance can contact the Eldercare Locator to find services available in their community at the toll-free number is 1-800-677-1116 or visit <https://eldercare.acl.gov/>.

People with disabilities can find their local Center for Independent Living at <https://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory>.

## Virtual Ed Class For Alzheimers

The COVID-19 pandemic presents unique challenges for more than 5 million Americans, including 230,000 in Illinois, living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter is offering free virtual education programs and support groups to help all Illinois caregivers and their families.

Each program is approximately one hour and allows the audience to ask questions and engage with others online.

Upcoming programs include: Dementia Conversations: Driving, Doctor Visits, Legal and Financial Planning; Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body; Tips from the Latest Research and Effective Communication Strategies.

For a complete list of upcoming programs, or to register, for a program, visit [alz.org/crf](http://alz.org/crf).

Online community resources are available at [alz.org](http://alz.org) including ALZConnected®, a free

online community where people living with Alzheimer's, caregivers, family and friends can ask questions, get advice and find support.

The free, 24/7 Helpline (800) 272-3900 offers support for caregivers and families impacted by Alzheimer's and all dementia.

### Social Security Services Online

All local Social Security officers are closed to the public for in-person services. This decision protects older Americans and people with underlying medical conditions -- and its employees during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Secure and convenient online services remain available at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Local officers will continue to provide services over the phone.

For more information, visit [www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases](http://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases).

## Park District Online Activities

The Chicago Park District is offering a series of online activities and programs typically offered at park locations to stay active at home.

Work-out, Clean and Stay Active with the Wellness Team at Union Park (1:13 minutes). The Wellness Team brings tips to keep your home squeaky clean and burn off calories while you're stuck at home.

Take Virtual Ballet Conditioning Class (20 minutes). Join Phil Martini, Indian Boundary Park Supervisor, for an abridged version of his class.

Learn Your Next Dance Moves Work Out (3:40 minutes). Get your heart pumping and learn choreography with help from Elaine McLaurin, Dance Instructor at Douglas Park.

Start Your Day with a One-Minute Yoga Session (55 seconds). Mellow and stretch-out with a one-minute yoga session led by Andrea from the Park District's Wellness Team.

Father and Son #PushUpChallenge (1:11 minutes). See if you could bat the Wellness Team's Brandon Lyles and his son in this challenge.

Storytime at Berger Park with Eileen Tull, drama instructor at Berger Park, is channeling her acting skills to read an animated version of "The Monster at the End of this Book."

Make a Baby Yoda with Us (2:24 minutes). Calling all "Star Wars" fans. Learn how to make

your own baby Yoda with Eileen Tull, drama instructor at Berger Park.

Stay at Home Bingo. Keep Active, stay healthy and learn something new in this fun twist on Bingo. Click on image on website to print it at home.

Coloring Sheets. Luna, the Night Out in the Parks mascot, has some fun ideas for ways to keep active at home. Have a dance party, read a book, play a musical instrument, or watch a move. Color the sheet then do the fun activities. Click on image on website to print it at home.

Practice Meditating with Sounds from Palmisano Park (45 seconds). Reduce stress and bring serenity to your life by practicing mindfulness meditation.

Garfield Park Conservatory Digital Tours. The conservatories are closed, but you can still enjoy the sights of the Garfield Park Conservatory digitally.

Palmisano Park (Stearns Quarry) audio tour. Transformed from an old stone quarry in the Bridgeport neighborhood, the park has a sustainable design with wetland terraces, native plants, and a fishing pond.

Humboldt Park Audio Tour -- look at its lovely features-- and learn about the architects, artists, and landscape designed who created it -- most notably Jens Jensen.

Visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/staying-active](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/staying-active).

## Street Projects In 14th Ward



14th Ward Alderman Edward M. Burke reports a street resurfacing project has started on 51st from Millard ave. to Kedzie. This project will also include ADA sidewalk improvements and will be completed late in the year.

Residential street resurfacing approval for this year include Nagle ave. from 51st st. to 53rd; 5100 block of Natoma; Knox Ave. from 47th to 51st; Spaulding ave. from 43rd to Archer and Sacramento from 55th to 59th.

The following streets have been put on hold

pending other utility improvements: 53rd st. from Central to Mayfield; Keating ave. from 47th to 51st; Kildare from 47th st. to Archer ave; 53rd st. from Western to California; and 56th st. from Sacramento to St. Louis.

### CDPH Issues COVID-19 Update

The Chicago Department of Public Health is working to reduce the impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 by detecting new cases quickly and providing guidance to communities to help minimize transmission.

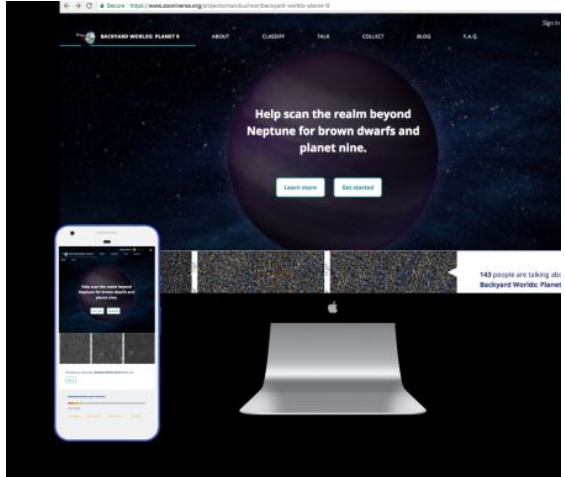
No patient will be turned away because of inability to pay. There are approximately 165 community health centers throughout the city. You can find your nearest community health center at [findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov](http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov).

CDPH has established a call center at (312) 746-4835 to address questions from the public from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

### 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](mailto:brightonparklife@aol.com).

## Citizen Science Initiative Online



By Jennifer Howell

On April 22nd, Adler Planetarium celebrated the 50th anniversary of Earth Day with a unified response to help protect and restore our planet. Even though Earth Day events have been cancelled worldwide due to the global pandemic, you can still participate in projects to help save our planet and the people on it by taking part in the world's largest online citizen science initiative, Adler Zooniverse.

An initiative co-founded and co-led by the Adler Planetarium and the University of Oxford, Zooniverse leverages over 2 million volunteer "citizen scientists" from across the globe and has become the world's largest and most popular platform for people-powered research. It gives people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests the chance to contribute to real scientific research with 100 active online projects. Here are a few projects that need your help:

Bash the Bug: Help the medical community understand and predict which M.tuberculosis bacteria will be resistant to specific antibiotics. This info will help scientists fight antibiotic resistance and keep us safe from superbugs.

University of Wyoming Raccoon Project: Help identify and study raccoons. This will allow ecologists to accurately estimate populations of animals and enhance the study of wild animal behavior and personality.

Floating Forests: Help scientists understand how forests of kelp grow and change over time. Giant kelp forests are one of the most exciting ecosystems on Earth. Kelp is what we call a

'foundation species'. In ecosystems where it is present (roughly 25% of the world's coastlines!) it forms the foundation of the entire ecosystem. It provides food for all manner of herbivores from tiny shrimp to grazing fish.

Invader ID: Invasive species can have major impacts on ecosystems by competing with native species for food and space. Help us track these changes in coastal environments by identifying marine invertebrates.

Science Friday Live Events: On Friday, April 24th, tune into PRI's Science Friday at 1 pm CST to learn more about how you can engage with the Zooniverse platform from home. The Adler's VP of Citizen Science Dr. Laura Trouille will explain how your participation can make a real impact during these unprecedented times. The team at Science Friday will also announce a special series of Facebook/ Zoom live Zooniverse events showcasing four projects April 27th-30th. Each day from 3-3:45 pm CST, the team will focus on a different project. Viewers will engage with the project researchers, hear about the discoveries and impact on science, and join other viewers from around the world for in-real-time classifications.

You don't need any special training to volunteer with Zooniverse. Anyone with access to a computer or smartphone and an internet connection can start contributing to real research projects at [adler.zooniverse.org](http://adler.zooniverse.org).

### Volunteer Network In McKinley Park

A group of residents in McKinley Park have created a community mutual aid network to help neighbors during the pandemic. Formed and organized through online channels and video chat, the McKinley Park COVID-19 Support Network recently released outreach material in English, Spanish and Chinese.

Residents in distress or who require aid can connect to the support network by calling or texting (312) 772-4806, send email to [mckinley-park.covid19@gmail.com](mailto:mckinley-park.covid19@gmail.com), fill out an online request form at <https://tinyurl.com/tbym33p>, or the groups's Facebook page.

Volunteers may sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/un6s8gf> or send email to [mckinley-park.covid19@gmail.com](mailto:mckinley-park.covid19@gmail.com).

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## Nesting Penguins At Shedd Aquarium



As the penguins at Shedd Aquarium begin their annual nest-building, Lyric Opera of Chicago has provided music to accompany the bustling activities. The playful music from “The Barber of Seville” pairs well with the penguins, who are busy collecting natural materials like lavender sprigs, grape vines and fig branches to build their nest.

While the aquarium is closed to the public, caretakers are onsite taking care of the animals, including the penguins. Both species are expected

to nest for the next few months, which may also result in new chicks joining the colony as early as May.

Lyric ended its 2019/20 season early. The company is preparing for the 2020/21 season, which will open in September, and is engaging with its patrons through digital communications, website content, social media and more.

The video can be viewed and downloaded at: <https://personal.filesanywhere.com/fs/v.aspx?v=8e6a658a5e6575b7b4a4>

## Residents Urged to Make Cloth Masks

The Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications is launching the “Chicago Together! Make a Mask, Give a Mask, Wear a Mask” citywide cloth mask drive on Saturday, April 25th. Residents can donate homemade cloth masks that will be provided to homeless shelters, community health clinics, and other organizations to prevent outbreaks among the most high-risk residents.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance recommending the use of cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. The use of the cloth face coverings is meant to help prevent people who have the virus and may not know it from transmitting it to others.

The CDC Guidelines on How to Make a Cloth Mask is available at [chicago.gov/coronavirus](http://chicago.gov/coronavirus). Masks can be made from recycled cloth such as t-shirts, bandanas, jeans, thick cotton and other breathable fabrics.

Completed masks should be placed in a clear, sealable plastic bag. When residents are dropping off the masks, they must put them in tightly closed, clean boxes or bags while wearing gloves and a mask. Residents should indicate the quantity they will be donating.

Donations will be accepted at 12th Ward Alderman George Cardenas, 3476 S. Archer from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays, April 25th through May 16th.

The City will pick up the masks and deliver them to the United Center, where they will be included in kits packed by TEAM Rubicon, a veteran-led global disaster response organization and distributed as needed.

### Mental Health Support Available

Emotional reactions to this emerging health crisis are expected. Feeling sad, anxious, overwhelmed or having other symptoms become worse, reach out for support and help.

Free mental health resources are available to all Chicago residents. Connect to a NAMI Chicago Helpline mental health counselor by calling 311 or (833) 626-4244. Connect to Bright Star Community Outreach’s trauma counseling helping at (833) TURN-123. Connect to free teletherapy services at Public Health Mental Health Centers by calling (312) 747-1020.

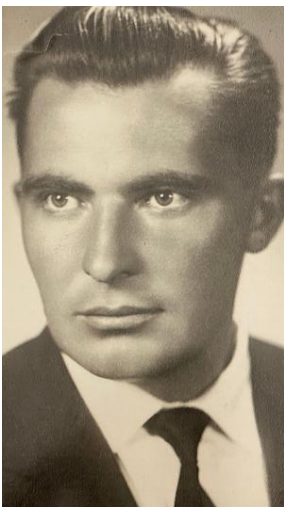
For after hours support, contact Crisis Text Line which serves anyone, in any type of crisis, 24-hours a day. Text HELLO to: 741741 to access a trained crisis counselor.

### Application For Early Learning


Chicago Early Learning has over 600 preschool sites across the city. Children who will be age 3 or 4 on or by Sept. 1st can access quality no-cost or low-cost preschool options online at [chicagoearlylearning.org](http://chicagoearlylearning.org).

Application for the 2020-21 school year is open. Subscribe to the newsletter online and be the first to receive updates about the preschool application. Information about services for infants and toddlers is also available online. Visit [chicagoearlylearning.org/connect](http://chicagoearlylearning.org/connect) or call (312) 229-1690.

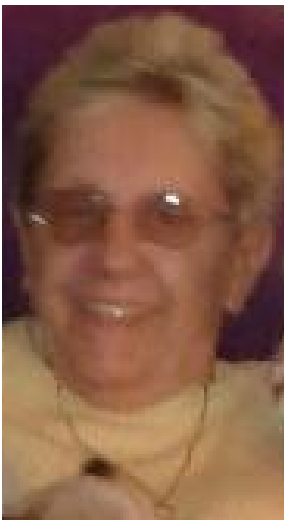
## Obituaries



**WACŁAW A. BERDYSZ**, of Willow Springs and formerly of Garfield Ridge, passed away on April 13th at the age of 85. He was the husband of Kazimiera (nee Piatkiewicz); father of Roman (Karen) Berdysz and Kathy Berdysz; grandfather of Derek, Charlie and Olivia; brother of late Roman and late Mieczysław Berdysz in Poland. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery.



**MARIA LARA**, passed away on April 11th at the age of 57. She was the wife of Guadalupe Lara; mother of Jose, Javier, Mario and Maricruz; sister of Maria Dolores, Emilia Maria, Concha, Luz Maria, late Carmen and late Pedro. Visitation was held April 17th at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery.



**JOANNE H. KANE**, (nee Sobczak), 78, of Chicago Ridge, passed away on April 20th at the age of 78. She was wife of late John Kane; daughter of late Victoria (nee Sawina) & late Joseph Sobczak; sister of Donald (Francine) Sobczak, late Dolores (late Joseph) Kara and late Kenneth (Wanda) Sobczak; aunt of Angela Kara, Michelle Padilla, Sherry Franco and Jackie Sobczak. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Willow Springs.

**NORMA MARTINEZ**, passed away on April 13th at the age of 45. She was the daughter of Martiniano Martinez & Esperanza (nee Delgadillo); wife of Arturo Jaimes; mother of Arturo Ivan and Alejandra Isabel; sister of Velia, Euladia, Martin, Martha and Adriana. Visitation was held April 20th at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Interment was at St. Casimir Cemetery.



**JOSEPH WALCZAK, JR.**, World War II Navy Veteran, passed away on April 14th in South Ogden, Utah at the age of 93. He was the husband of late Elizabeth M. (nee McGee); father of Cheryl Ann Walczak, M.D.; son of late Anna (nee Szymaszek) & late Joseph Walczak, Sr.; uncle of Gregory (Sue) Johnson, Mark Johnson, Joseph (Linda) Johnson, Anthony Walczak, Steven (Tracey) Walczak & Kristine Walczak (Doug Broderick); great uncle of Madeline Broderick & Katie (Jeff) Berrios. Arrangements by Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Willow Springs.

### Daily Story Time

The Chicago Public Library has launched “Live from the Library: A daily Story Time for Kids of Chicago” weekdays at 10 a.m. CST on Facebook live. This program will feature librarians and Chicago notables reading their favorite children’s books.

## Warning For CARES Act Scams

Attorney General Kwame Raoul urges residents to watch for scammers trying to take advantage of the upcoming COVID-19 federal economic stimulus payments.

Under the CARES Act, \$2.2 trillion will be allocated to individuals and businesses affected by the pandemic. One-time direct deposit payments of up to \$1,200 will be made to individuals who pay taxes and \$2,400 for married couples, plus an additional \$500 per child. The payments will be available for individuals who earn up to \$75,000 per year and married couples who earn up to \$150,000 per year.

Residents should not respond to email messages, text messages, letters or phone calls that claim to include information about the stimulus package and request personal information or prompt recipients to click on a link. Such messages likely are sent by scammers trying to steal personal information such as bank account numbers, Social Security numbers or credit card numbers. Clicking links or opening attachments could result in downloading dangerous malware onto their computers or phones.

Consumers who have loans with ACH authorization for loan payments (an automatic withdrawal from their bank account common in payday, title and other small dollar loans) should take steps to ensure their CARES Act payment will not be taken by their lender if they are currently behind on their loan.

For more information visit the official Internal Revenue Service website at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov). Report scams connected to the COVID-19 outbreak by visiting the Attorney General’s website at <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/about/contacts.html>.

### Free Rides From Domestic Violence

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced a partnership with Lyft and Uber who collectively donated over \$20,000 to provide free rides for those seeking domestic violence services. These funds will be directed to the IL Domestic Violence Hotline at (877) 863-6338.

Residents seeking transportation and other services to flee a violent situation can contact the hotline which is available 24/7. Operators will deploy a driver from either Lyft or Uber to pick up the rider and transport them to a new location of their choosing. The requester’s privacy will be protected.

Lyft also donated \$10,000 in ride codes to help in bringing food and supplies to the many people who are unable to leave their home. All residents, both current Lyft riders or first-time users, can use codes CHICAGOACCESS20 and CHICAGO-RELIEF20 for a one-time \$25 credit available for use on a first-come, first-utilized basis.

### 2020 Census Goes Online

The Illinois Department of Human Services announced that the 2020 Census can be accessed at [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) from a smart phone, tablet, laptop, computer and terminals at local libraries. The nine questions will take less than 10 minutes to complete.

The number of seats Illinois has in the U.S. House of Representatives for the next 10 years will be determined by the census count this year.


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## COVID-19 RESPONSE & RESOURCE GUIDE

### Unemployment Insurance

If you or a loved one has been laid off as a result of COVID-19, you can apply for unemployment insurance through the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Legal Permanent Residents and DACA recipients can also apply. We know many of you are having a hard time getting someone on the line. Please be patient and try again, IDEAS has hired additional staff. You can also file online by visiting their web page:

[bit.ly/UnemploymentIDES](http://bit.ly/UnemploymentIDES)

### Now Hiring

Illinois grocers throughout the state are looking to hire. Many are hiring on-the-spot. The Illinois Retail Merchants Association has a listing of grocery stores hiring on their page.

<https://irma.org/covid-19/>

### Utilities

**ComEd & People’s Gas** are suspending service disconnections for customers who cannot pay, and waiving new late payment charges. ComEd is committed to do this at least through May 1, 2020. If you are having trouble paying your bills please call them to talk through your options: **People’s Gas:** 866-556-6001 **ComEd:** 800-334-7661

**Comcast and ATT** are offering 2 months of free internet service to low-income families who are new customers. To learn more go online Comcast: [internetessentials.com](http://internetessentials.com) or AT&T: [click here](#)

**AT&T** will not terminate the service of any wireless, residential or small business customer because of their inability to pay in this crisis. They are waiving late fees until May 13 and will keep their Wi-Fi hotspots open for anyone.

### Housing

The City of Chicago has an Emergency Rental Assistance Program and a COVID-19 Housing Assistance Grant which families can apply to for a one time \$1,000 cash grant. For more information:

[bit.ly/chirenta](http://bit.ly/chirenta)  
[bit.ly/Chirentalassistance](http://bit.ly/Chirentalassistance)

### NO EVICTIONS IN COOK COUNTY

The Cook County Sheriff will not enforce eviction orders until April 13th, 2020. If the court has already ordered that a tenant should be evicted, the sheriff will not take action until April 13th at the earliest.

### MORATORIUM ON FORECLOSURES

If a building is in foreclosure, there is a moratorium on entering and executing final judgments in foreclosure cases. This moratorium means that the existing landlord will not lose the building for at least 30 days, and tenants should continue to pay rent if demanded.

### Food Security

Chicago Public Schools will be providing free food boxes that will contain three days of breakfast and lunches for every student in the household. All families will be able to pick up meals at their nearest CPS school. You can call 1-773-553-KIDS or email at [familyservicescps.edu](mailto:familyservicescps.edu) to make a request for food delivery. You can also fill out this form.

[bit.ly/CPSlunchbox](http://bit.ly/CPSlunchbox)

The Greater Chicago Food Depository can also help secure access to food. Anyone in need of emergency or supplemental food assistance in Cook County is eligible. Find a Food Depository member agency in your neighborhood online or by phone (773) 247-FOOD (3663)

[www.chicagosfoodbank.org/find-food/](http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/find-food/)

Catholic Charities also provides financial assistance for rent, utilities & transportation. In addition to assisting with food security. Call them at (312) 655-7700 or click here for more information - [more info](#)

Questions? Need help? Please call us at (872) 281-5775 or email us at [rep.theresamah@gmail.com](mailto:rep.theresamah@gmail.com)

### IDNR Closes State Sites

To further prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced the closure of all state parks, fish, and wildlife areas, recreational areas, and historic sites as well as the cancellation of upcoming scheduled events.

Persons impacted weekdays by a cancellation or closure are encouraged to call the Information Line at (217) 782-6752.

For more information on COVID-19, visit <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/> or call 1-800-889-3931.



## St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish Welcomes You

All Masses & Services Postponed Until Further Notice

### Masses at St. Barbara

Bridgeport — 2859 S. Throop

Saturday, 5 PM,  
Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM  
6 AM & 9:30 AM Sunday Masses

**St. Barbara:** 312-842-7979

### Masses at St. Therese

Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander

Sunday Masses 8AM & 10:30AM

### Foreign Language Masses

Cantonese - 1st Sunday 10:30AM  
Mandarin - 2nd Saturday 4PM  
Also 4th Sunday 12:30PM

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

### Check Out Our Sunday Mass on You Tube!

Holy Mary, Health of the Sick, Pray for Us!  
St. Joseph, Hope of the Sick, Pray for Us!  
St. Rocco, Epidemics Protector, Pray for Us!  
St. Rosalia, Plague Protector, Pray for Us!

### THURSDAY BINGO at ST. BARBARA

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Scholarships For Italian Students

The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, Grand Lodge of Illinois & Wisconsin, announced that graduating high school seniors who are full or partially of Italian ancestry are invited to compete for college scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each.

Qualified students will graduate this year from any recognized public or private high school within the State of Illinois.

Applicants will be selected upon the basis of financial need; scholastic achievements; activities in high school showing character and leadership, personal essay and faculty recommendations.

Applications can be obtained by contacting OSDIA, Grand Lodge of Illinois & Wisconsin in writing, at 9447 W. 144th Place, Orland Park, IL 60462. Including a self-addressed, stamped envelope, or via email at [gl@osiaillwi.org](mailto:gl@osiaillwi.org) or on [www.osia.uno](http://www.osia.uno).

They must be completed and returned by July 1st. Winners will be notified on or before Aug. 31st.

On Aircraft Carrier



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) 1st Class Eric Wimmer, hydrostatically tests a fire hose aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) in the Atlantic Ocean on April 18th. The Carrier Strike Group remains at sea in the Atlantic ready for tasking in order to protect the crew from the risks posed by COVID-19, following their successful deployment to the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operation.

CBA Offers Legal Service

As consumer and employment complaints relating to the Coronavirus are surging, the Chicago Bar Association is reminding the public that attorneys are available to provide legal assistance online or over the telephone. The lawyer referral fee will be waived in the wake of the public health pandemic.

The Lawyer Referral Service has been in operation for nearly 80 years and offers services including consumer protection, personal injury, domestic relations, estate planning, real estate, and employment law.

The Federal Trade Commission is reporting that public inquiries related to the coronavirus have increased significantly in recent weeks, including complaints related to travel refunds, online shopping, mobile texting scams and government and business imposter scams.

The CBA sponsors a monthly "Call A Lawyer" program through the Lawyer Referral Service, making attorneys available to take calls from the public. On Saturday, May 16th, the public can call (312) 554-2001 and explain their situation to an attorney who will then work to suggest self-help strategies or provide advice to help resolve their issues.

These services can also be accessed on the CBA's website at [www.chicagobar.org](http://www.chicagobar.org).

Free Programs On Finances

The Resurrection Project, 1818 S. Paulina offers free financial wellness programs and individual counseling.

To learn more, sign up for a workshop, or to schedule a session, call (312) 880-1137 or email [resurrectionproject.org](mailto:resurrectionproject.org).

Online Resources At Science Museum

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago is providing free online resources to keep kids learning at home.

The website offers online games as well as numerous hands-on experiments that teach scientific principals and use common household items such as rubber bands, newspaper, left-over straws, cardboard and more.

Experiments include:

Sound sandwich - see how the vibration inside musical instruments produces sound by building your own. Newspaper fortress - putting engineering basics front and center, kids can learn how and why the triangles are considered the strongest shape.

Insulation challenge: With the weather getting colder, kids can test the materials that best keep an ice cube from melting and understand how buildings stay warm during the winter.

Comeback can: Learn more about why you can predict when a can will reverse motion using potential and kinetic energy.

At the start of the 2019-20 school year, MSI provided free family vouchers to Chicago Public Schools student inside their information packets.

Science Storms: Investigate the science behind nature's power and control the dynamics of a 40-foot tornado, trigger and avalanche, unleash a tsunami and try more than 50 amazing experiments.

Numbers in Nature: A Mirror Maze: Learn about the mathematical patterns found in nature, art, the human body and more inside this 1,800-square-foot mirror maze, a dizzying and mesmerizing array of repeating reflections.

For more information, visit [msichicago.org](http://msichicago.org) or call (773) 684-1414.

5K Run-Walk At Montrose Harbor



A Safe Haven Foundation will host its 10th Annual 5K Run! To End Homelessness at Grove 16 at 600 W. Montrose Harbor Dr. on Sunday, July 19th at 8 a.m. Proceeds will go to support the mission of transforming lives from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Music and a free Kids Fun Run! (Registration required) will also be included. Race fee is \$40. Price increases to \$45 after May 15th. For more details, visit [RunToEndHomelessness.org](http://RunToEndHomelessness.org).

Work Zone Safety Week

The Illinois Department of Transportation, Tollway, State Police, industry partners and front-line construction workers are joining forces for National Work Zone Awareness Week to ensure "Safe Work Zones for All."

Throughout Illinois, improving and maintaining infrastructure continues as an essential public service, with special care being taken to protect workers during the ongoing pandemic.

While driving through a work zone, put down the phone, pay attention to the signs, don't speed. See Orange. Slow Down. Save Lives."

Because of decreased traffic volumes and improving weather, increased speeding and severe crashes are becoming growing concerns.

Each year, more than 5,100 crashes on average occur in Illinois work zones, resulting in almost 1,400 injuries. In 2019, 30 people died in work zones, including one worker.

Last year, Gov. JB Pritzker signed legislation that sets a penalty of between \$100 and \$1,000 for drivers who disobey traffic-control devices within work zones. The penalty cap for violations while workers are present increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

For additional facts, printable materials and information on highway projects this year in Illinois, click here or visit [idot.illinois.gov](http://idot.illinois.gov). Tollway projects are at [www.illinoistollway.com/projects](http://www.illinoistollway.com/projects).

Brookfield Zoo Issues Appeal

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed financial pressures on many businesses, including nonprofit cultural institutions such as the Chicago Zoological Society, which manages Brookfield Zoo. The zoo has been closed since March 19th and has practically no earned revenue stream available. Nearly one-third of its staff was placed on temporary lay-off/unpaid furlough as of April 4th.

The lay-offs included staff who are not considered critically essential to support the minimum operations of the organization, while keeping staff employed who ensure the health and welfare of the animal population, maintenance and protection of the buildings and grounds, and other support system and functions.

During the lay-off period, staff is on no-pay, no-duty status, and eligible to apply for unemployment benefits. Furloughed/laid-off staff will continue to receive medical and other benefits for a period of time. The duration of the furlough/temporary lay-offs is unknown at this time due to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

The Society has applied for loans through the new stimulus bill. In addition, the Society's Board of Trustees and Women's Board has transitioned to a virtual format for its largest fund-raising event of the year—The Whirl.

Brookfield Zoo welcomes donations from the public, zoo members, and donors through its website to assist with the situation. Information on how to donate may be found at [CZS.org/donate](http://CZS.org/donate).

Current zoo members are asked to renew now and those considering a membership to also do so in order to help alleviate the financial pressures. As a thank you, the zoo is extending the duration of current memberships to offset the temporary closure.

Oral Arguments At Ill. Supreme Court

The Illinois Supreme Court, for the first time in its history, will hold oral arguments via the Zoom videoconference platform when it hears cases in May.

The court is scheduled to hear four cases on May 12th, four on May 13th and three on May 14th at 9 a.m. The Call of the Docket is available on the website [illinoiscourts.gov/supremecourt/docket](http://illinoiscourts.gov/supremecourt/docket).

The public is invited to attend oral arguments via livestream on the Court's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBc2kE0mWb6XTXqQ6LndLg>.

Six Flags Delays Opening

Six Flags Great America has temporarily suspended operations and will open in mid-May, or as soon as possible. There have been no reported cases of COVID-19 at the property.

For guests with pre-paid tickets, the valid dates have been extended to the end of the 2020 season. For current 2020 Season Pass Holders, passes will be extended for the number of operating days the park is temporarily closed.

Six Flags Great America members will receive one additional month for each month that the park is closed, plus a free membership level upgrade for the rest of the 2020 season (and/or other bonus benefits, as applicable).

For more information, <http://sixflags.com/greatamerica/coronavirus>.

Literacy Center Needs Tutors

The Aquinas Literacy Center, 1751 W. 35th st, needs volunteer tutors to help adult immigrants learn English during 90 minutes per week. All tutoring is in English. Opportunities are available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The next tutoring workshop will be scheduled when possible.

For more information or to register, contact [sabrina@aquinasliteracy-center.org](mailto:sabrina@aquinasliteracy-center.org) or (773) 927-0512

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