



Space Shuttle Challenger



By Dr. R. Pletsch

The atmosphere in parts of our country has many people feeling as if the end of the world is imminent. Well maybe it is, but most generations have felt the same way. On the other hand, most Americans are just living their lives and assuming the world will still be here tomorrow.

We are coming to an anniversary on January 28th of one of the most intense days in my teaching career. It was different than days that we had guns in the schools, or on 9-11. In these cases, it was physical safety that we had to try to express to our students.

It was different in 1986. If you still don't remember the event, it was the morning that the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded just over a minute after lift off. What bothered the 2,000 students in my school is that many were watching because that was the day the first teacher in space, Christi McAuliffe. This mother of two had earned a spot on the shuttle by winning a competition over 11,000 teachers.

There were thousands of students watching the program on TV, many in my building. Many were

watching Christie's parents watch the takeoff and then at the time of the explosion. They were in a special bleacher with special guests and all were somehow tied to these seven astronauts. Many cameramen understood what that explosion meant and started filling the human tragedy of these family members -- because everyone knew what that explosion meant including my students and they empathized.

While some complained about the personal and financial cost to the country that the Space Program brings, our spirit rose because this is America. We grieved, we honored the dead and we investigated. The Space Shuttle was rebuilt with over 100 changes to make it safer. Today, due in large part to heroic astronauts, they have made our world that no one could imagine without the program.

Our satellite system has brought us cell phones, real time television, world-wide weather reports, military defense systems, and many other things. Guess what? Very few people asked if the astronauts were Democrats, Libertarians or Republicans, who they voted for in the election, what, if any, religion they followed.

The astronauts continued to be heroic and almost 17 years to the date on February 1, 2003, the Columbia Explorer disintegrated and all seven astronauts died. We have in our community a school named for these heroes -- Columbia Explorers Academy, 4520 S. Kedzie. The families and friends of these heroes deserve our prayers because a violent ending to life, like these, lives with us always.

Fall Dean's List At UW-Madison

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Honorees must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements.

Local scholars and their college are: Abigail Chavez, Engineering; Judy Chen, Human Ecology; Sarah Cyszczech, Letters and Science; Grissell Erazo, Letters and Science; Omar Espino, Engineering; Vanessa Flores, Education; Charlene Gorman,

Letters and Science; Laura Guerrero, Engineering; Jo Gutierrez, Letters and Science; Florence Huang, Business; Kai Huang, Letters and Science; Abril Pereznegron, Education; Braulio Puente, Letters and Science; Julio Roldan, Engineering; Alexander Roman, Education and Raquel Valentin, Education.

Daily Vaccinations For Residents

The Chicago Department of Health and Human Services issued a report of COVID-19 daily vaccinations for Jan. 25th.

City vaccine series completed - cumulative - 33,445 doses (23%), 1st dose - cumulative 111,346 doses (77%). 1.2% percent populations.

60632: 1st dose cumulative 1,459 total, 1.6% population. Complete vaccine series 284 total, .3% population.

60638: 1st dose cumulative 1,687 total, 2.9% population. Complete vaccine series 471 total, .8% population.

60608: 1st dose cumulative 2,994 total, 3.7% population. Complete vaccine series 828 total, 1% population.

60609: 1st dose cumulative 1,332 total, 2.2% population. Complete vaccine series 289 total, .5% population.

Richards Honored

Alexandra Richards (60638) has been placed on the Gettysburg College Dean's Honor list for outstanding academic achievement in the Spring 2020 semester. Honorees must attain a quality point average of 3.60 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) for a semesters work.

Brookfield Zoo's Facebook Live Chats



Photos--credit Jim Schulz/Chicago Zoological Society

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. 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.

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 open-mic. 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 June 8th 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.

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

The staff of Legler Regional Library will conduct Tots and Tales story-time for ages 0 to 5 and their caregiver via Zoom on Thursdays, through Feb. 11th from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Register 24 hours

Ramundo Graduates

Isabella Ramundo (60609), received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from The University of Alabama during its fall commencement on Dec. 12th.

in advance.

Family Story Time for ages 0-5 and caregivers will feature books, finger plays, activities, rhymes and music on Saturdays through Feb. 27th at 10 a.m. Register by 9 a.m. the day before.

STEM Around the House will be available on Tuesdays, Feb. 23rd, March 23rd, April 27th and May 25th at 5 p.m. Participants will solve problems, meet design challenges and have some STEM-y fun with things you have around the house. Best for kids ages 5 to 12, but younger children are welcome to participate with an adult. Register at least 24 hours before the event.

Mock Interviews and Resume Help for adults and Teens is available on Thursday, Feb. 4th to 25th from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Pet Show & Tell for kids and teens will be featured on Saturday, Jan. 30th from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Talk about your dog, cat, rabbit, hamster, fish or whatever pet you have at home. Register by 5 p.m. on Jan. 29th.

Chicago Student Invention Convention for ages 5 to 13 will be conducted on Tuesdays, Feb. 2nd through 23rd from 5 to 5:45 p.m. This project-based program utilizes existing STEM skills and emphasizes creative problem-solving, resilience and communication. Plan to attend all 4 sessions, if possible. Register 24 hours in advance.

Register for events at chipublib.org.

Dean's List At Iowa State U.

More than 11,000 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2020 Dean's List. Honorees must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Local scholars are: Colleen Clare Curtin, senior, Agricultural Studies; Arturo Ivan Magana, sophomore, Computer Engineering and Michelle Pasek, senior, Hospitality Management.

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 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: small-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 Buttler, *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: *Barbus* by Patricia MacLachlan, *Frog and Toad* by Arnold Lobel, and *Meet Yasmin* by Saadia Faruqi.

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/Kids CitywideEvents.

Citywide Story Time with stories, songs and 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: Feb. 24th, *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz; March 24th, *The Long and Faraway Gone* by Louis Berney; 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.

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.

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, Empowering People," 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.

Moreno Honored

201 students were named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Marshalltown Community College, Iowa. Honorees must have taken 12 or more credit hours during the semester and have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average while attending.

Ernesto Moreno of Chicago earned a perfect 4.0 gpa.

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.

Unique Gift Ideas For Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day is a time when we celebrate the love we have for one another. But for others, Valentine's Day may be a time when they remember, despite all efforts, those who spurned that love. Who is to say they can't celebrate Valentine's Day as well?

This year for Valentine's Day, Brookfield Zoo is once again offering the chance to name a cockroach in honor of that un-special someone. For a \$15 donation, name one of the Madagascar hissing cockroaches that resides in Hamill Family Play Zoo after an ex or anyone who may have wronged you. The "Name a Cockroach" package includes a Certificate of Naming that can be filled out and shared with the recipient or kept as a reminder that a cockroach bears your recipient's name as well as a placement on the Cockroach Naming Board, located inside Hamill Family Play Zoo. Although Brookfield Zoo is temporarily closed until March 1, photos of the board will be posted on the zoo's Facebook page on February 14th.

Those interested in naming a cockroach after a loved one or someone who has a fondness for

the hissing insect, can do that too. Just click on that option when filling out the online form at CZS.org/NameACockroach 2021. Contributions go to the Chicago Zoological Society's Annual Fund.

Brookfield Zoo has dozens of charismatic animals available through its Animal Adoption program that would make the perfect Valentine's gift for that special someone. From Pistachio, a Kemp's ridley sea turtle, and Arnieta, a reticulated giraffe, to a red panda or one of the Nigerian dwarf goats, a \$35 contribution will go towards the care of the animal you choose for one year. The recipient will receive a 5-inch by 7-inch color photograph of the selected animal, a personalized certificate of adoption, a species fact sheet, an Animal Adoption decal, and an invitation to the exclusive 2021 Animal Adoption summer event.

A gift card carrying your name and Valentine's Day message can accompany the gift. To ensure regular mail delivery by Feb. 14th, orders must be received by Feb. 5th. To purchase an Animal Adoption package, visit CZS.org/AnimalAdoption or call (708) 688-8341.

Shedd Aquarium Plans Reopening



Photo credit: ©Shedd Aquarium/Brenna Hernandez

Shedd Aquarium is preparing to reopen its doors after 70 days of closure with general public admission beginning on Saturday, Jan. 30th.

Memberships help fuel the aquarium's mission-driven work in animal care, conservation and education. Members-only hours will be offered on Sunday, Jan. 31st at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. reservation times.

This includes limited building capacity, online purchasing of timed tickets to entry, mask requirements, hand sanitizer stations and one-directional pathways.

Gorecki Honored

Drake Gorecki, (60632), has been named to the Dean's List at Hamilton College of Clinton, New York for the 2020 fall semester.

Honorees must have carried throughout the

semester a course load of four or more graded credits with an average of 3.5 or above.

A first-year student, Drake is a graduate of Walter Payton College Prep School.

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Lincoln Library Sponsors Art Contest

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and Illinois State Board of Education is sponsoring an art contest on the theme, “Art Surrounds Us.”

Judging will occur across four levels: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. In each level a winner and three runners-up will be selected, and one piece will be selected as “Best in Show.”

The 16 top designs will be displayed by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and a single winner will be used as a poster sent to all schools during Illinois Arts Education Week, March 15th-19th, 2021.

Artwork may be submitted now through Feb. 12th. The winners will be announced in conjunction with Illinois Arts Education Week. The winner of “Best in Show” will be recognized during an ISBE Board meeting and a framed copy of their work will hang in the Board office.

Submissions must be 11 inches by 14 inches and two dimensional. They cannot feature copyrighted characters or images. More details are available at bit.ly/ALPLMArtContest.



President A. Lincoln

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, at 212 N. Sixth St. in Springfield, holds an unparalleled collection of Lincoln books, documents, photographs, artifacts and art, as well as millions of other items pertaining to Illinois history. Traditional exhibits, eye-catching special effects and innovative storytelling techniques educate visitors.

For more information, visit www.presidentlincoln.illinois.gov.

IRS Warning On COVID-19 Scams

The Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division is warning taxpayers about a new wave of COVID-19-related scams as the agency delivers the second round of Economic Impact Payments.

A variety of Economic Impact Payment scams and other financial schemes designed to steal money and personal information from taxpayers has emerged.

Some common scams include: Text messages asking taxpayers to disclose bank account information under the guise of receiving the Economic Impact Payments.

Phishing schemes using email, letters and social media messages with key words such as “Coronavirus,” “COVID-19,” and “stimulus” in varying ways. These communications are blasted to large numbers of people and aim to access personally identifying information and financial account information (including account numbers and passwords).

The organized and unofficial sale of fake at-home COVID-19 test kits

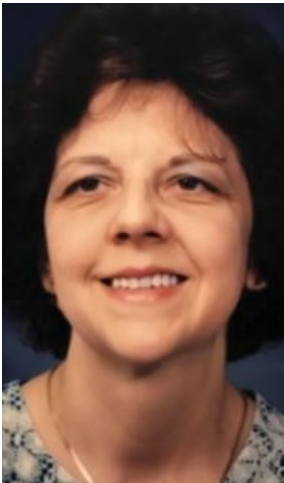
Webinars Explain Money Management

Let's Talk Money is a free, online webinar series from University of Illinois Extension that can help individuals and families, gain a better understanding of basic financial topics and improve their financial situation.

The 8-week series helps consumers turn tough financial topics into more simple conversations. Participants will learn strategies to help understand spending habits, manage debt responsibly, understand credit scores, and save money for retirement and other important life events.

Register at go.illinois.edu/TalkMoney for one or more sessions held on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Topics include: Who are You with Money? (Feb. 2), How Much is Too Much Debt (Feb. 9), Fair Access to Credit (Feb. 16), Debt Repayment Strategies (Feb. 23), Credit Scores Revealed (March 2), Secrets for Financial Success (March 9), Framing Biases, Overcoming Hurdles (March 16) and Make Your Savings Grow (March 23).

For more information, contact program organizer Kathy Sweedler at sweedler@illinois.edu.



RITA A. MILCAREK passed away on Jan. 17th. She served as a paralegal at two Chicago law firms: Lord Bissell and Brook and McDermitt, Will and Emery Illinois, secretary of the Paralegal Association and Chicago Legal Aid Foundation. As secretary of the Council of Catholic Women at the Our Lady of Snow Church, she assisted underprivileged children in the Brighton Park and Midway area. Ms. Milcarek was a graduate of DePaul University and Daley College. Survivors are her twin sister Jeanne Lamping; niece-in-laws Jean and Kimberly Monocchio; nephews Joseph, Richard and Ronald Monocchio, and great-nephews Mitchell, Anthony, Dominick, Nicholas, Scott, Jacob and Nathaniel Monocchio. Visitation was held at Ridge Funeral Home.



EDWARD STANLEY ODENBACH, of Cicero, He was the of Cicero, IL. A United States Army Veteran, Vietnam War, passed away Jan. 23rd at the age of 74. He was the husband of late Mary Ann Sojka-Odenbach (nee Bartoszek); father of late Walter-Sojka; brother of Mary Lou (Michael) Polyak and late Gerald Odenbach; brother-in-law of Angie Bartoszek, late Zofia (late Stanislaw) Kopinski, late John (Krystyna) Nowobiliski, late Stanley (Mary) Bartoszek and late Jozef (Maria) Baroszek; uncle of Laura, Aimee, Michelle and Lyle. Visitation will be held Thursday, Jan. 28th from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, 5088 S. Archer. 11 a.m. Funeral Mass will follow at St. Bruno Church. Online registration is required. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery.



PAOLA KESEK QUINTERO, age 6 months; daughter of Richard Kesk and Veronica Quintero; sister of her twin, Paolina, Angelina, Daniela, Natalia Kesk, Anthony and Ailine Quintero; granddaughter of Susana Quintero and late Anna (nee Oblazna) and late Walter Kesk; niece of Sophie Kesk, Robert Kesk, Gloria Quintero and Leonel Quintero; great niece of Thaddeus Oblazny, John Oblazny, Theresa Oblazny, Stanley Oblazny, Mary Bernatowicz. Visitation was held Jan. 26th at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Willow Springs. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Faustina Kowalska Church on Jan. 27th. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery.

Obituaries



VIRGINIA ROZA, (nee Petlicki), of Archer Heights, passed away on Jan. 24th at the age of 96. She was the wife of late Martin Roza; mother of James Martin (Cynthia) Roza; grandmother of Blythe Anne (Michael) Zada & Elspeth Jean (Daniel) Slocum; great grandmother of Fiona, Valerie, Jacob & Danya; daughter of late Mary (nee Depowski) & late John Petlicki; sister of late Anthony (late Esther) Petlicki, late Walter Petlicki, late Angeline (late John) Pogwidz, late John (late Evelyn) Petlicki & late Joan (late Frank) Labanowski; aunt of Ronald Getches, Everett (Lillian) Petlicki, Pat (Tom) Howley, John (Myrna) Petlicki, Frank (Vicki) Labanowski, Theresa Ganas, late Joan (John) Poskus, late Billy (late Mary) Conrad, late Ronnie & late Mary Ann Getches. Visitation will be held Thursday, Jan. 28th from 3 to 7 p.m. at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, 5088 S. Archer Ave. 10 a.m. funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Richard Church on Friday, Jan. 29th. Online registration is required. Entombment will be at Resurrection Garden Mausoleum.



LUIS CAYETANO SALAS passed away on Jan. 15th at the age of 98. A retiree of Local 710, he was a life long resident of Archer Heights and served as Operations Manager for Middle State Motor Freight. Visitation and Chapel Service was held Jan. 22nd at Szykowny Funeral Home, Jonathan F. Siedlecki Director, 4901 S. Archer. Interment was at St. Mary Cemetery.

History of Skokie Lagoons

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct a Zoom presentation of the History of Skokie Lagoons on Wednesday, Feb. 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Guest speaker: Gary Morrissey will explain the origins, transformation, and how it has become an important resource for wildlife and outdoor education.

Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/history-of-the-forest-preserves-skokie-lagoons-tickets-135369440641>.



FRANK J. SISK, age 93, husband of Sabina (nee Ciunczyk); father of Elizabeth (Richard) Chlopek & Victoria Siska; grandfather of Caitlyn; brother of Veronika (Jan) Dudzik, late Maria (late Jozef) Firszt, late Wojciech (late Helena), late Andrzej (late Helena) & late Jan (late Maria) Siska. Visitation was held Jan. 27th at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Willow Springs. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery.



HERMINIO MARTINEZ-TOLEDO passed away on Jan. 20th at the age of 66. He was the husband of late Rachael Martinez; father of Jerry (Reyna) Negrete, Jorge (Kathy) Negrete, Robert (Cheri) Negrete, Linda, and Ronald (Kristen) Negrete; brother of Alfonso, Elpidio, Ezequiel, M.A. Amparo, and Jaime; grandfather of 34 and great grandfather of 35. Visitation was held Jan. 27th at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Interment was at Michoacan, Mexico

Science Pogram On Facebook Live

The Little Red Schoolhouse will conduct a program “I’m a Scientist: The Matter of Attraction” Facebook Live on Thursday, Feb. 18th at 10 a.m.

An experiment will demonstrate how magnetism effects our planet and its processes. For more information, (708) 839-6897 or littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyl.gov.

Polar Plunge To Go Virtual

The annual Chicago Polar Plunge, presented by Jackson, will be a virtual event for the first-time in its 21-year history, due to the pandemic. From March 1st – 7th, new and former plungers will have the opportunity to plunge safely in a setting of their choosing – whether it be jumping in the snow or running through a sprinkler – while raising money for the 7500 participants of the Special Olympics Chicago/Special Children's Charities program.

Registration is now open by visiting www.chicagopolarplunge.org. Prizes include: a Peloton bike or exercise mirror to those who raise \$25,000; Two round-trip tickets on United Airlines to the first plunger to raise \$2,100; choice of Polar Plunge towel, wireless speaker or water bottle to all who raise \$300; an official Chicago Polar Plunge t-shirt for all those who fundraiser \$200 and a Chicago Polar Plunge neck gaiter to the first 200 people who register.

Other prizes such as Yeti coolers, televisions, Apple Ipads and AirPods will also be awarded to top fundraisers.

A virtual melt-down party will take place on Sunday, March 7th, where photos and video clips of participating teams and individuals will be showcased. Special Olympics Chicago athletes, various Plunge

Teams, local dignitaries and celebrities also make appearances. The winners of the annual costume contest and most creative plunge awards will be announced.

Last year's Chicago Polar Plunge was the most successful to date with over \$2.2 million raised, and 4800 plungers.

Fundraiser of the year for our organization, this is the perfect year for those who have not participated in the Plunge in the past, and who may have found the idea of jumping into Lake Michigan during the cold March weather a little daunting. The Virtual Polar Plunge allows everyone to participate in whichever manner they choose.

For more information call (312) 527-3743; or email polarplunge@sochicago.org.

BPNC Provides Finance Counsel

The Financial Services department of the Brighton Park Neighborhood Counsel is virtually and telephonically providing counseling on services such as first-time home buying, financial coaching, and foreclosure prevention.

For more information, email communications@bpncchicago.org or by phone at (773) 523-7110.

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Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM

6 AM & 9:30 AM Sunday Masses

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St. Barbara: 312-842-7979

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Weekday Schedule

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

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School 312-326-2837

This Sunday , Jan. 31 , Mass on Facebook/YouTube at 10:30 am in English

THURSDAY BINGO at ST. BARBARA

POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Find out more at www.chicagorxcard.com

Aid Navigators For Small Business

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will direct a \$3.4 million investment to expand community navigator outreach programs and technical assistance services provided through the State's Small Business Development Centers. These investments are designed to help more businesses take advantage of financial assistance recently made available through the renewed Paycheck Protection Program, and other federal programs set to launch soon.

The state's plans to help small businesses will build on the community navigator outreach model piloted during the Business Interruption Grants program which directed \$275 million to nearly 9,000 small businesses.

The passage of additional federal COVID-19 stimulus by Congress in December 2020 provides several new and extended financial assistance programs to help small businesses. This includes a \$284 billion extension of PPP, which began accepting applications from lenders.

In the coming weeks, more than \$35 billion will be made available to small businesses through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance as well as the new Shuttered Venue Operators grant programs. For more on eligibility for these programs, visit the U.S. Small Business Administration website.

Open Lectures For Residents

Cook County and the University of Chicago Office of Civic Engagement announce an additional events of Open Lectures for Residents.

Organized around seven themes: COVID-19 and Health, Economics, Elections, History, Philosophy, Environment, and Racial Bias. The content will feature a combination of past lectures and interviews in audio and video formats.

The courses will be available at civicengagement.uchicago.edu also linked from the County's website cookcountytill.gov.

For more information and the full content schedule, visit the Open Lectures webpage at civicengagement.uchicago.edu

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

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 rock-hopper and Magellanic penguins. Download the app to start exploring.

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 Shamrock-Shuffle.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.

Assistance Programs For Homeownership

Governor JB Pritzker announced the creation of two new programs designed to help bring additional assistance to working class families and underrepresented communities. Offered by the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the SmartBuy and Opening Doors programs were designed to aid communities of color, which have historically endured many barriers in their path toward homeownership.

Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs reported that than 2 million people carry student loan debt, the average value of which is \$29,855.

Borrowers must meet eligibility requirements established for IHDA's DPA programs, and homebuyer education is required.

IHDA Mortgage SmartBuy will provide a 30-year fixed rate first mortgage with a deferred \$5,000 for down payment and/or closing cost assistance. In addition, the program will provide 15% of the purchase price (up to \$40,000) in assistance for student loan debt relief to borrowers looking to buy a home and help build generational wealth.

Potential borrowers must have at least \$1,000 in student loan debt and must pay off their full remaining student loan balance at closing. The promissory note and deed restriction will have a term of 3 years, and if the borrowers sell the property within that time, they will need to sell to another borrower within IHDA's income and purchase price limits.

IHDA Mortgage Opening Doors is designed to increase home purchase accessibility for low- and moderate-income qualified homebuyers. This includes Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients. IHDA will provide a 30-year 1st mortgage with a fixed interest rate and \$6,000 in down payment and/or closing cost assistance. The down payment assistance is forgiven after five years.

For additional information and a list of the nearest participating lenders, visit www.ihdamortgage.org.

City Speed Cameras Now Activated

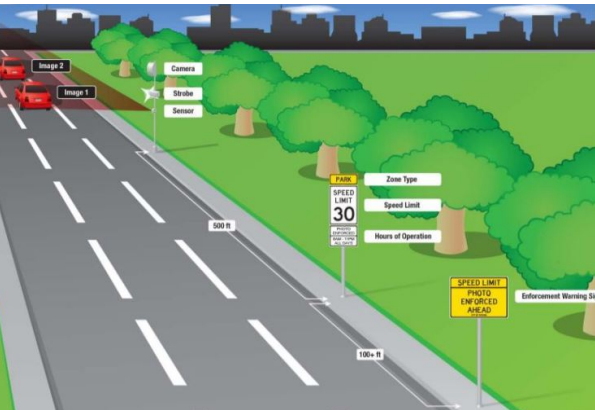


Photo Image by City of Chicago

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.

Free Food Distribution

The community is invited to partake in a free food distribution at Our Lady of Fatima, 2751 W. 38th pl.

Every Saturday from 10 am. to noon, while supplies last.

For walk-ups, enter through Pershing rd. alley behind the Acero - Sandra Cisneros's school.

For drive-ups, enter through California - 38th pl. and food will be placed in your trunk.

HOW TO DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS IN CHICAGO

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water
- Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing and/or coughing
- Don't touch your face with unwashed hands
- Don't shake hands
- Pay closer attention to cold or flu symptoms

CHICAGO.GOV/CORONAVIRUS

Ice Skating Ribbon Open at Maggie Daley



At Maggie Daley Park, 337 E. Randolph st. skaters can experience "alpine in the city" as they lace up their ice skates and follow a path twice the length of a lap around a traditional skating rink. Complementing the skating ribbon are places to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and rent skates. Skate with your own is \$5. Skates are available in child's size 8 through men's size 12. Rental for standard lockers \$5, locker \$8 - per day. Make reservations at maggiedaley.com.

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 cook-countytreasurer.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

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 CBA sponsors a monthly "Call A Lawyer" program through the Lawyer Referral Service, making attorneys available to take calls from the public. On Saturday, Feb. 20th from 9 a.m. to noon, the public can call (312) 554-2001 and explain their situation to an attorney.

These services can also be accessed on the CBA's website at www.chicagobar.org.

Zoom Workshop On Photography

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct an online Winter Photography Skills Workshop via Zoom on Wednesday, Feb. 24th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The presentation will include recommendations on picturesque preserves to explore with your camera. Q&A will be held at the conclusion of the program. Registration is required at <https://winterphotoskills1.eventbrite.com>.

OFFICE OF THE
COOK COUNTY TREASURER

January 2021

Dear Constituent:

As the most difficult year in memory thankfully recedes, I want to wish you all the best for 2021 and to deliver a few words about some of the projects and reports my office has been working on which I believe are important to you. These include:

The Pappas Study – A 20-year history of the growth of property taxes in Cook County. Our research shows taxes rose over two decades by 99 percent, nearly triple the growth in the cost of living (36 percent). Note: This and other studies below can be found on cookcountytreasurer.com.

The Top 50 – This extension of The Pappas Study lists the 50 properties in Chicago and suburbs with the largest property tax increases since 2000, showing an increasing tax burden on homes and businesses.

Scavenger Sale Study – Our report shows that the Scavenger Sale, designed to auction off dilapidated housing, is a failure and communities with the worst housing pay the most taxes, have the highest crime and lose the most residents. We call on the Legislature for a remedy.

Extraordinary efforts to give taxpayers their money – My office has access to \$122 million that belongs to people, not government – \$76 million in refunds for double-payments and overpayments and \$46 million for exemptions for which eligible taxpayers (often seniors) did not file. We have enlisted aldermen, commissioners and state legislators to find these owners of homes, businesses and land who may not know that they have money due them.

Black Houses Matter – Because the bulk of tax delinquent properties is in the African American community, I began this program to locate owners to a) encourage them to pay back taxes to avoid possibly losing their property, and b) inform them when they have refunds or exemption money coming. I carry this message weekly on my radio show on WVON/1690 AM every Monday at 11:30 a.m.

State of the Office – A review of my office's advancements in technology, efficiency and service through 2020 as given to the Cook County Board of Commissioners when I recorded my 18th straight year of cutting my corporate budget.

As the pandemic worsened life for our people, and having done so already for the second installment of 2020, I convinced the County Board to waive penalties on late payments for two months on both property tax installments in 2021.

The First Installment of 2020 taxes is due March 2, 2021, with application of late charges moved back to May 3, 2021.

The Second Installment of 2020 taxes is due August 2, 2021, with application of late charges moved back to October 1, 2021.

Getting the word out about these and other matters during the pandemic has been extraordinarily time-consuming.

The times may continue to test us in 2021, but if we live in the hope and expectation that we will prevail, I believe that Providence will see that we do prevail.

Sincerely,
Maria Pappas

5621 S. Nottingham Ave. - Location, Location, Location. Price Change Archer & Nottingham - Quad Level 7 rooms, 3 bedrooms brick with 3 baths. New roof on home & garage, all windows upgraded with shades or blinds. Built in sprinkler system; A/C in 2009, hardwood floors in 2017, 2.5 car garage, side drive. Semi finished sub basement, fireplace, laundry room and more. Call for more details at (773) 582-9300.

6918 W. Archer Ave. - Price Reduced Commercial brick building. Large store front & 3 offices, 1/2 basement, 85x125 lot. Parking in rear and additional parking across the street. Immediate possession! Call (773) 582-9300.

6742 W. 64th Place #2W: Second floor unit, 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, balcony, all appliances stay. New hot water heater, new patio door, all electric condo. Washer and dryer in the basement common area; plenty of storage in the basement and a party room.Two parking spaces. Quick possession. Call (773) 582-9300.

6918 W. Archer Ave. - Price Reduced Commercial brick building. Large store front & 3 offices, 1/2 basement, 85x125 lot. Parking in rear and additional parking across the street. Immediate possession! Call (773) 582-9300.

RENTALS: Looking for an apartment, condo,home or store front. Give me a call! (773) 582-9300.

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