



Holiday Season



By Dr. R. Pletsch

I recently visited an old friend who is a principal. We talked about the kids and Christmas. We found three in the group who seemed to have no idea about this holiday. Why? They were recent immigrants from Africa and are not Christian though they were in a Catholic school and had very limited English.

I thought this week I would discuss that teachers and thereby the kids should respect other ideas and traditions. I remember when I was in grade school, ethnically my classmates were all Eastern European and would all come in having celebrated St. Nicholas day on December 6th and getting presents. I felt slighted. So this would not happen to my siblings, I told my parents and they did what was necessary.

I thought I would share some things that

occurred during my teaching years. I would take my students to the Museum Of Science and Industry to view the exhibit of Christmas trees around the world. Going at the beginning of the exhibit it was not crowded and my little kids could actually see the trees. During one of our assemblies, after Santa came out I came out to lead Silent Night. Most of our K - 5 students were shocked to see me as I was the only one in school that fit the normal Santa description. If I was not the Santa, Santa must have been the "real one".

One year we picked countries out of a bag for Christmas Around the World. My room was assigned Poland. With the help of my wife I taught the kids "Dzisiaj w Betlejem" and they did well. A couple months later, I taught the kids "This Land is Your Land" and we visited the building that was called Sears Tower. When almost completed my second graders went and sat on the floor and they asked if they could sing their song. I said sure. As the small crowd gathered, my 30 little Black kids surprised us all as they began singing in Polish "Dzisiaj w Betlejem".

Christmas is full of memories that last lifetimes. Please remember there are other traditions. Be very sensitive with the kids. As Christmas will also keep sad memories vivid. Remember some families, especially if a loved one died during the holidays, may be sad and need your support.

Skating Ribbon At Maggie Daley Park



Ice-skating on the Maggie Daley Park Ribbon, 337 E. Randolph st. is open through March 3rd. The quarter mile of ice meanders through Alpine trees and mountains (AKA climbing wall) with a view of the most magnificent skyline in the world. Reservations are required at magiedaleyepark.com

Archer Heights Library Schedules Programs

The Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer has scheduled programs for children and adults.

English Book Discussion Club. Join us in person for a discussion of *IQ* by Joe Ide. Wednesday, Dec. 22nd, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Book can be checked out.

The Spanish Book Club will meet on Saturday, Jan. 8th from 2 to 3 p.m.

Blood Center Seeks Donation

The Community Blood Center will conduct a blood drive at the office of 15th Ward Alderman Ray Lopez, 4266 S. Archer on Saturday, Dec. 18th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To schedule your donation, visit communityblood.org/donor. Click "Donate Now" and search for sponsor code C516. You can also call 800-280-4102.

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Wright Graduates

Minnesota State University, Mankato awarded 2,276 degrees to 1,941 students at the end of the fall 2021 semester, during commencement ceremonies on Dec. 11th.

Zoe Wright, was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biochemistry, Cum Laude.

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.

Walking Tour At Morton Arboretum



The ninth annual *Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum* will return to a walking experience with five new lighting features, including a special Human+ Nature display.

Through Jan. 2nd, guests can explore 50 acres of majestic trees during a spectacle of color, light and sound. The exhibition takes guests on a journey along a one-mile, paved walking path amid festive music and lighting effects that highlight the beauty of trees. Along the route, guests can warm up by a crackling fire and roast marshmallows for s'mores, or stop in one of the concession tents for a snack and beverage.

New experiences include: A lighting display of Hallow, the iconic sculpture by artist Daniel Popper in the Arboretum's Human+ Nature exhibition.

Enchanted Gateway, a new entry portal of glowing lights leading to Meadow Lake.

Festival of Lanterns, where guests walk under 150 colorful lanterns at the top of Frost Hill.

Golden Glade, a meadow of lights at the top of the Conifer trail.

Winter Radiance, a new path leading back to the Visitor Center featuring colorful reeds.

Returning favorites include Treemagination, Symphony Woods, Woodland Wonder, Ornament Hill, The Champion Tree,

Enchanted Forest and Crown of Light.

The exhibition was custom designed and developed uniquely for The Morton Arboretum in partnership with international media and exhibit designers Lightswitch LLC and features energy-efficient, eco-friendly LED lighting.

Ticket prices range from \$7 to \$24 per person. Children under age 2 will be admitted free of charge.

Illumination sponsor ComEd is offering a 20% discount for a limited number of non-member *Illumination* tickets on select Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays using the code COMED-LIGHTS2021 at checkout (see the mortonarb.org website for dates). The offer is valid for up to four tickets per transaction and is subject to availability.

Timed tickets may be purchased online at mortonarb.org, in person at the Arboretum Visitor Center during operating hours or on-site each night of *Illumination*, as tickets remain available. Questions about the event can be directed to the Ticket Line at (630) 725-2066.

Illumination will open each evening at 4:30 p.m., with last entry at 8:30 p.m. Lights go out at 9:30 p.m. The exhibition is closed December 24th (Christmas Eve) and 25th (Christmas Day).

Holiday Lights Fest At Six Flags



Holiday in the Park Lights at Six Flags Great America will run select nights and weekends through Dec. 30th.

Highlights include: Over three million dazzling holiday lights; Kalightoscope, the Midwest's largest synchronized light display; Heartwarming performances featuring holiday classics; Select family rides, like the Columbia Carousel. Photo opportunities with costumed characters, including Santa Claus and Special seasonal treats and activities, like cookie decorating, s'mores pits, and the chance to craft a letter to Santa.

Dec. 18th-19th, guests to bring an item from the Share Our Spare wish list - diapers, wipes, and diaper cream for children ages 0-5. Dec. 27th-29th, guests can text to donate to Northern Illinois Food Bank. For each holiday plush sold at the park,

Six Flags will donate \$5 to Special Olympics.

Guests with Six Flags Memberships and Great America season passes receive admission to Holiday in the Park Lights. One-Day tickets are on sale at <https://www.sixflags.com/greatamerica/events/holiday-in-the-park-lights>.

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, mexfol-roa@ameritech.net.

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 Brighton Park Branch Library, 4314 S. Archer has Pom-Pom, Wreath-making kits and Water Bead Stress Balls kits for teens. These grab and go kits are available while supplies last on Tuesday, Dec. 21st from 12 to 3 p.m.

Join Ms. Katie from the McKinley Park Branch to read books, sing songs and enjoy rhymes geared towards children 0 to 5 on Mondays, Dec. 20th & 27th from 6 to 6:30 p.m. This event takes place on Zoom, register early.

Winter Break Fun and Game Time will be offered on Wednesdays, Dec. 22nd and 29th from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Clearing Branch Library, 6423 W. 63rd place offers in-person adult play of the ancient Chinese game of Mahjong on Fridays, Dec. 17th, Jan. 7th to Feb. 4, 18th and 25th from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Time for Tots ages 24 to 36 months will be held on Monday, Dec. 20th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. In person activities include stories, songs, rhymes, finger plays, learning numbers, letters and shapes. Children get a take home craft each week. Early arrivals can color or build a puzzle.

The West Englewood Branch will conduct Holiday Trivia Night via Zoom on Monday, Dec. 20th from 6 to 7 p.m. The entire family may test trivia knowledge of holiday movies and music. Register one day before the program start time.

Thurgood Marshall Branch will conduct weekly virtual American Sign Language classes on Tuesdays, Dec. 21st and 28th, and Jan. 4th from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Register 48 hours before the event.

Mount Greenwood Branch will conduct a Mini Readers Preschool Book Club via Zoom on Tuesday, Dec. 21st from 5 to 5:45 p.m. Mrs. Vicky will read and discuss the book, "The Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg. A materials list will be sent by email to those who register by Dec. 20th or stop by Mount Greenwood Branch to pick up the materials.

The whole family is welcome to join Ms. Andrea from Gage Park for Virtual Christmas Trivia Night on Tuesday, Dec. 21st from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Register by 5:30 p.m. the day before.

Stories and Songs for ages 2 to 5 will be offered on Wednesday, Dec. 22nd and 29th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come early and build a puzzle. This even takes place in person. Register by 10:30 a.m.

The Brighton Park Branch Library, 4314 S. Archer will conduct in person Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays,

Park Camps For Winter Break

The Chicago Park District provides the opportunity for students to enjoy their winter break in a fun and supervised environment, at an affordable cost. Campers participate in recreational activities, arts and crafts, and sports along with other fun activities.

Dates vary, many camps run Dec. 20th to 30th. Parks are closed on Dec. 24th & 31st. For more information, visit chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Dec. 22nd and 29th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Kids ages 3 to 6 will enjoy books, music, stories, craft activities and fun. Register by 10 a.m. the previous day.

A drop-in Thank You Card Workshop for kids and teens will be offered on Monday, Dec. 27th from 12 to 4 p.m. Paper and templates will be provided. No registration is required, space limitations may apply.

Legler Branch Library will conduct a Teen Podcast Club on Tuesday, Dec. 28th from 4 to 5 p.m. This event takes place on Zoom, register at least 24 hours before.

Ms. Jenny from the Douglass Branch virtual program for babies aged 0-2 and their caregivers on Mondays, Dec. 20th, 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, Dec. 28th, 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 and fun, stick around for a craft. Register by the day before the event.

The Grown(ish) Club: Adulting as a Teen will be conducted online on Thursdays, Dec. 30th through Feb. 24th from 8 to 9 p.m. Ages 13 to 18 will have conversations about life that they don't always teach in school. Topics include relationships, leadership, money management, job readiness and more. This event takes place on Zoom, register 3 hours before.

The Humboldt Park Branch will conduct an English as a Second Language class on Wednesdays, Jan. 12th; Feb 9th; March 9th; April 13th May 11th and June 8th from 6 to 7 p.m. This event takes place on Zoom, register at least 3 hours in advance.

The Jeffery Manor Branch Library will host former IRS agent, William Newell, as he offers information, tips and suggestions for filling your taxes on Friday, Jan. 14th from 2 to 3 p.m. This event takes place on Zoom, register at least 24 hours before.

Write About It! Writing Club for teens and adults will feature creative writing, poetry and song on Tuesdays, Jan. 4th through May 24th from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. This event takes place on Zoom, register by 10 a.m. the day before.

Register for events at chipublib.org.

PetSmart Offers Photo with Santa

PetSmart, 4146 S. Pulaski is hosting Santa Photo Days where pet owners can get a free picture of their pet with Saint Nick on Dec. 18th - 19th from noon to 3 p.m. Book a reservation at PetSmart.com/SantaBook.

PetSmart is also hosting the #SantaAtPetSmart contest on social media, giving 30 grand prize winners a chance to win a year's supply of premium pet food. Participants will be entered in a weekly drawing by posting a photo or video of at least one pet with a holiday component on their public instagram or Twitter, mentioning PetSmart and using the hashtags #SantaAtPetSmart and #Contest. Find more information at petsmart.com/SantaPhotoDaysContest.

New Efforts To Curb Carjackings

Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart announced new efforts his office is taking to stop the rise in carjackings by focusing on improving access to tracking information. Carjackings have increased approximately 43 percent in the County so far this year compared to the same period in 2020.

"We've been looking at how to curb this disturbing trend from all sides," Sheriff Dart said. "One that would help is getting quicker access to a stolen vehicle's location after it's taken. This will help recover vehicles sooner, quite possibly with the offenders still at the wheel, making it easier to get criminal charges. This will also help prevent the cars from being used in other crimes."

Dart sent letters to the major automakers asking for collaborating on how to address this crime. Most vehicles sold after 2015 have the capability to be tracked and nearly two-thirds of the vehicles taken in carjackings are 2015 models or newer.

The ability to contact a manufacturer and the requirements to access the tracking information vary depending on the car company. Many times, the process relies on victims, some of whom may be injured - to navigate a corporate bureaucracy when time is of the essence. One of the suggestions is for automak-



SHERIFF T. DART

ers to create a free 24/7 hotline that customers and law enforcement can contact to request the vehicle's location when it's stolen.

Car owners can submit a consent form to the Sheriff's Office to grant permission to release the vehicle's tracking information to law enforcement in the event their vehicle is taken. With this permission in hand, police can more quickly work with auto companies to get the vehicle's location information. The form, along with safety tips, are available on ccsheriff.org.

A new public awareness sticker has been created to put on their vehicles announcing that it is trackable. The stickers will be available at courthouses and Sheriff's police stations.

Sing-Along At Millennium Park



The new Millennium Park Holiday Sing-Along (previously "Caroling at Cloud Gate") will invite Chicagoans and visitors to sing out and celebrate the city's diverse holiday traditions on Friday, Dec. 17th from 6 to 7 p.m.

COVID Test Kits For CPS Students

Chicago Public Schools will distribute approximately 150,000 take-home COVID test kits to more than 300 schools in communities that have been highly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure the test is processed properly and that families receive test results in a timely manner, families are encouraged to test students on Tuesday, Dec. 28th and drop the sample at their nearest FedEx Drop Box on the same day. Parents can find information about drop box locations and pickup hours at color.com/fedex-dropbox. Instructions for conducting the test will be provided to each student that receives a test kit.

CPS used the city's COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index to guide distribution of test kits.

Families whose students do not receive a test are encouraged to visit cps.edu/youthcovidtesting for opportunities in the community. Anyone who tests positive must isolate for 10 full days.

Southwest side schools include: Brighton Park Elem., Burroughs, Byrne, Calmecca, Columbia Explorers, Curie High, N. Davis, Edwards, Everett, Evergreen, Greene, Gun-saulus, Hearst, Kelly High, Kennedy High, Kinzie, Pasteur, Peck, Shields, Shields Middle, Sor Juana, Thomas and Twain.

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Garfield Ridge Library Schedules Programs

The Garfield Ridge Branch, 6347 S. Archer will feature in-person Adult Coloring Programs on Wednesdays, through Dec. 29th from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Studies have shown that it can relieve stress and anxiety as well as help adults achieve mindfulness. Coloring pages and supplies will be provided. Register now, due to space limitations. Children ages 3 and up are invited to drop by on Monday, Dec. 20th from 1 to 3 p.m. to make a personalized Christmas card for a friend or loved one. Art supplies will be available in the Children's area. No registration is required, space limitations may apply. PJ Storytime for ages 3 & up will be conducted on Tuesday, Dec. 21st from 6 to 6:30 p.m. The Adult Book Club will discuss "Orange is the

New Black" by Piper Ker-man on Wednesday, Jan. 12th at 2 p.m. and Thurs-day, Jan. 13th at 6 p.m. Snacks will be served. Copies are available at the circulation desk.

The Spanish Book Dis-cussion group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. January 6th title is Los Siete Mari-dos de Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Time for Tots will fea-ture 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. Chil-dren 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.

Register for events at chipublib.org.

Holiday Flower Shows At Conservatories



The Garfield Park Conservatory Winter Flower Show, 300 N. Central Park ave., will run through Sunday, Jan. 9th. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednes-days and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sun-day.

"Serenity" evokes a feeling of tranquility to re-mind visitors that the nat-ural world is a great source of calm amidst the hectic season. Pink poin-settias will help to calm anxiety, while plants with silver foliage will relax the mind. Pleasant scents will remind visitors of the out-doors, and provide aro-matherapy, many blooming flowers, such as

hyacinth, zinnias, salvias, and cosmos will fill the room.

The Lincoln Park Con-servatory Winter Flower Show, 2391 N. Stockton Dr. will also run through Jan. 9th. The Conserva-tory is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Candy Cane" features an imaginary swirl of the peppermint treats, with red and white poinsettias, holiday lights, and a 12-foot poinsettia tree.

Admission to the holi-day flower shows is free. Timed reservations are required. For more infor-mation, visit <https://bit.ly/WinterFlowerShows2021>.

Outdoor Ice Rinks Open For Season



The Chicago Park Dis-trict's outdoor ice skating rinks are open through Feb. 21st, weather per-mitting. The ice skating ribbon at Maggie Daley Park, 337 E. Randolph st., is open through March 13th.

Timed-reservations will be required at www.chicagoparkdis-trict.com/ice-rinks. In ac-cordance with Covid-19 social distancing guide-lines, Pre-registration is required for all programs, including open skate ses-sions. Registration will be released on a rolling basis at noon on Mondays, for the sessions that run two weeks later. Skaters can check in 30 minutes be-fore the start of their scheduled session.

Skaters who bring their own skates can re-serve a free skate spot. Skate rentals will be available for \$7 in child's size 8 through men's size 12. Half sizes are not available.

In addition to open skate, most ice rinks will feature programming in-cluding drop-in learn to skate lessons, stick & puck plus pond and rat hockey. Locations are: McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd., (312) 747-6527; Midway Plaisance Park, 1130 Midway Plai-sance North, (312) 745-2470; Mt. Greenwood Park, 3721 W. 111th St., (312) 747-6564; Warren Park, 6601 N. Western Ave., (773) 262-6314 and Wentworth Park, 5625 S. Mobile Ave., (312) 747-6993.

Pre-registration is re-quired for all programs.

Open Skate is open to all ages. Pre-registra-tion is required and admission is \$7.

Drop-In Learn to Skate Lessons provide instruc-tion on the basics of bal-ance, forward stride, starting, and stopping. Recreational or hockey helmets, gloves and knee pads are recommended. Admission (includes skate

rental) is \$10.

Stick & Puck and Pond Hockey offers 45-minutes of Stick & Puck followed by 45-minutes of Pond Hockey for one price. Players will be required to wear a helmet, shin pads, cup and hockey gloves. Skaters must bring their own equipment, including hockey stick. Admission (includes skate rental): \$8 person, \$10 for adult & child

Stick & Puck offers open access to the ice for practicing stickhandling, skating and shooting skills.

Pond Hockey Practice for non-contact battling up to 5-on-5 skaters. The program is open to chil-dren and adults and is of-fered in combination with the Stick & Puck pro-gram.

Rat hockey is a pick-up game available for players 18-years-old and older. All players will be re-quired to wear a helmet, shin pads, cup and hockey gloves. If eight partici-pants are not registered, the program will be can-celed. Admission (includes skate rental) is \$10.

Sled-assisted skating allows people of all abili-ties to skate together. These specialty sleds for both children and adults are designed with a foot guard, ABS bucket seat, footrest, and pusher han-dle. No usage charge. Reservations are required at (312) 442-2194.

Contact the individual ice rinks or visit www.chicagoparkdis-trict.com/ice-rinks.

Assistance For Illinois Renters

The Illinois Housing Development Authority announced that applica-tions are now open for the second round of the Illi-nois Rental Payment pro-gram.

The reopening will provide an additional \$297 million to renters and landlords in an effort to prevent evictions.

Applications will be ac-cepted through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 9th at illinoishousinghelp.org.

Approved applicants will receive one-time grants of up to \$25,000, paid to their landlords on their behalf. If the land-lord chooses not to partici-pate in the program, tenants may receive pay-ments directly to make rental payments.

In this application round, assistance will cover up to 18 months of emergency rental pay-ments, including up to 15 months of missed pay-ments and up to three months of future pay-ments. Rent owed from June 2020 through April 2022 may be paid for with ILRPP funds.

Priority will be given to households earning less than 50% of AMI and to households with one or more members who have been unemployed for at least 90 days.

For more information and updates on the pro-gram, visit illinoishousinghelp.org.

Animal Shelter Offers Adoptions

Chicago Animal Care and Control, 2741 S. Western ave. will waive Adoption Fees in Decem-ber. See an updated list of animals at PetHarbor.com/Chicago. Download the adoption question-naire at Chicago.gov/cacc. Send it to CACC@City-ofChicago.org.

Visit @CACCAccepta-bles and @CACCCat-TransferTeam for more details.

Applicants must be 18 years or older. Bring offi-cial photo ID and bill/lease with your ad-dress. If you have pets at home, bring their vacci-nation records. Renters, discuss any pet restric-tions with your landlord.

Obituaries

MIGUEL ANGEL GUEL GONZALEZ born in Chicago, passed away on Dec. 2nd at the age of 22. He was the son of Cuahutemoc Guel and Heraclia Gonzalez; brother of Jose. Visitation was held Dec. 12th at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Funeral Mass was cele-brated Dec. 13th at Five Holy Martyrs. Interment was at St Casimir Catholic Cemetery.

GUADALUPE J. JUAREZ born in Guana-juato, Mexico, passed away on Friday, Dec. 10th at the age 87. He was the son of late Teodulo Juarez and late Aurelia Gonzalez; husband of Maria Lara; father of Ortenzia (late Manuel Cortez), Octavio (Otilia), Sonia (Rafael Garcia), (Lorena Manuel Haro), Maria (Manuel Lopez) and Martha (Gabriel Toledo); brother of Jose; grandfa-ther of 19 and great grandfather of 11. Visita-tion will be held Thurs-day, Dec. 16th from 3 to 8 p.m. at Ocwieja- Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Funeral Mass will be celebrated Friday, Dec. 17th, 10:30 a.m. at St. Richards Church, 5032 S Kostner. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery.

NATALIE KNOLL (nee Sicas) passed away on Dec. 7th at the age of 91. She was the wife of late Ewald; mother of Diane (John), Alfred (Joanne), John (Donna) and Edmund (Laura); grandmother of Dana (Ty), Anthony, Steffani (Doug), Briana (Ryan), Emili, Julie (George), Nick (Bohumila), Alfred Jr. (Shantelle), Michael (Andrea), Richard, John, Michelle, Jessica and many great grandchil-dren; sister in-law of Hildegard (Rudolf) and Richard (late Lydia nee Sicas) Fetingis. Natalie was a long-time resident of Brighton Park, where she was a faithful mem-ber of Peace Lutheran Church and later at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oak Lawn. Visi-tation and funeral service was held Dec. 11th at Zion Lutheran. Interment was at Bethania Cemetery. Arrangements were en-trusted to Kosary Funeral Home.

JOZEF KUSPER passed away on Dec. 2nd at the age of 82. Visitation was held at Szykowny Fu-neral Home, 4901 S. Archer, Jonathan F Siedlecki, Owner/Direc-tor. Funeral Mass was cel-ebrated at St. Albert the Great Church, Burbank. Interment was at Resur-rection Cemetery.

CELESTINO LA-ZARO passed away on Dec. 7th at the age of 55. Visitation was held at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer, Jonathan F Siedlecki, Owner/Direc-tor. Funeral Mass was cel-ebrated at St Gall Church. Interment was at St Mary's Cemetery, Evergreen Park.

FRANCISCO JA-VIER GARCIA LOPEZ, born in Guanajuato, Mex-ico, passed away on Sat-urday, Dec. 11th at the age of 32. He was the son of J. Carmen Garcia and late Angelica Lopez; brother of Raul, Lucila, Everardo, Elena, Josafath, Raul Cristian, Ely, Eduardo and late Pablo. Visitation will be held Monday, Dec. 20th from 8 to 10 a.m. at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S Mozart. Fu-neral Mass will follow at Immaculate Conception Church, 2745 W 44th st. Interment will be at St Casimir Cemetery, 4401 W. 111th st.

EDWARD R. Mc-CAMBRIDGE U.S. Air Force veteran passed away on Dec. 2nd. He was the husband of Christine (nee Mondlak); father of Michael (Angie), Charles, and late James (Diana); brother of late Thomas, late Janice (Kabbe) and late Sandra; son of late Charles & late Clara (El-liott). Ed was a retired member of SMWIA Local 73, sheet metal workers. John Olson Post #18 American Legion and Mayslake Council Knights of Columbus. Visi-tation was held at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer, Jonathan F Siedlecki, Owner/Director. Chapel Service and interment was held at Resurrection Cemetery, Justice.

DOROTHY ANN McKEE, passed away on Dec. 3rd at the age of 81. Visitation was held at Szykowny Funeral Home, 4901 S. Archer, Jonathan F Siedlecki, Owner/Direc-tor. Interment was at St. Mary's Catholic Ceme-tery.

Red Cross Aids Tornado Victims

Volunteers with the Illinois Red Cross are an-swering the call once more here at home and in communities impacted by devastating tornadoes that touched down across multiple states. Volun-teers spent the weekend assessing damages and distributing emergency supplies, such as tarps to impacted residents in Cass and Fayette coun-ties in Central and South Central Illinois.

More than 100 trained Red Cross disaster work-ers are on the ground right now in Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri – and more than 200 are traveling to the most impacted areas. Vol-unteers will be helping with sheltering, damage assessment, health ser-vices, including replacing prescription medications, eyeglasses or medical equipment, canes and wheelchairs.

The Red Cross has provided 200 additional blood products for pa-tients in the affected areas.

Prior to the tornado outbreak, the nation was already facing low blood supply and more donors are needed to ensure an available blood supply.

To make a financial donation or schedule an appointment to give blood or platelets, visit redcross.org or call 800-RED CROSS. You can also use the Red Cross Blood Donor app or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 gift today.

Holiday Magic At Brookfield Zoo



Brookfield Zoo, 8400 W. 31st st. will celebrate its 40th annual Holiday Magic, presented by ComEd and Meijer, Dec. 16th-19th, and 26th-31st from 3 to 9 p.m.

The lights festival, fea-tures 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 sea-sonal tunes. The walk-ways along the malls and around Roosevelt Foun-tain have more than 700 community and corporate trees decorated with orna-ments. Illuminated ani-mal sculptures, include a giraffe, bison, bear, and reindeer.

Photo opportunities in-clude a 3D 16-foot-tall gingerbread house, lumi-nous 20-foot-tall orb, holi-day-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 ani-mal habitats, including Tropic World, Pachyderm House, Big Cats, Swamp, Feathers and Scales, Rep-tiles 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. Dol-phins in Action presenta-tions (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 plas-tic. The cost for unlimited time for skaters on the rink is \$7. A limited num-ber of skates are available to rent for \$5 fee.

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

Arts, Craft Show At McKinley Park

McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing will conduct a Chinese New Year Arts and Craft Show on Satur-day, Jan. 29th from 10 a.m. to 11:04 a.m.

General public has free admission. There is space for 25 vendors at \$10 per table.

DIRECT CREMATION

\$1,800

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Rent In The 'Burbs!

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

- Free Heat
- Private Patio or Balcony
- Intercom Entry
- Ceiling Fans
- Window Treatments
- Large Walk-in Closets in 2 bedrooms
- Spacious Apartments with Separate Dining Area
- 24-hour Emergency Maintenance
- Laundry Facilities in every Building
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One bedrooms starting at \$941 month
Two bedrooms starting at \$1,096 month



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apply online!

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish Welcomes You

Both Churches are Handicapped Accessible

Masses at St. Barbara
Bridgeport — 2859 S. Throop
Saturday, 5 PM,
Rosary: Sunday, 5:30 AM
6 AM & 9:30 AM Sunday Masses
Weekday Schedule (Chapel)
Tue., Thurs., & Sat. 8 AM Mass

St. Barbara: 312-842-7979

St. Therese

Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander
Sunday Masses
8AM & 10:30AM in English
12:30PM in Mandarin
Weekday Schedule
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass
Check out our newly remodeled and air conditioned Church!

St. Therese: 312-842-6777

School 312-326-2837

Visit both Church's Shrines with Relics of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta (12-19-21)

See You in church this weekend!

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Sat. 6 a.m. -12 noon

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Part Time Clerical Person

Needed from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday, \$450.00 weekly. Computer skills, must possess good customer service skills, terms handling skills, and must be proactive.

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Palos Hills Apartments

Avoid the congestion of the city live in a park-like setting near forest preserves, transportation, shopping and schools. Located in Palos Hills, Scenic Tree Apartments have one bedrooms starting at \$941 month and two bedrooms starting at \$1,096 month.

Call (833) 373-0161
for an appointment

QUIET, clean, secure sleeping rooms. Veterans and seniors welcome. Near 51st and Homan. Call Al, (312) 953-0785.

Wanted To Buy

WE buy junk cars. Used tires available. (773) 457-2400.

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QUICK Towing Service. Ask for Lee. (773) 457-2400.

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT LOAN TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-BNCl, Plaintiff, vs. JOHNNIE ROLLAND, MARLYNNE L. ROLLAND, UNKNOWN OWNERS ALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants, 20 CH 2632

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at the hour of 11 a.m., in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 20-29-106-022-0000.
Commonly known as 1452 West 72nd Street, Chicago, IL 60636.

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

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

For information call Mr. Matthew C. Abad at Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever Law Group, 225 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606, (312) 236-0077. SP50004020FC1 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13182586

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, DBA CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER, TRUSTEE OF MATAVIN VENTURES TRUST SERIES 2017-3, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CHARLENE SIMS, ASA SIMS, JADA SIMS, POSSIBLE HEIR, SEAN SIMS POSSIBLE HEIR, WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE; ARIC B. SMITH, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants, 20 ch 1510

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Commonly known as 6905 SOUTH ADA STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60636.

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For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever Law Group, 225 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606, (312) 357-1125. 20-00377 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13182586

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, DBA CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER, TRUSTEE OF MATAVIN VENTURES TRUST SERIES 2017-3, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CHARLENE SIMS, ASA SIMS, JADA SIMS, POSSIBLE HEIR, SEAN SIMS POSSIBLE HEIR, WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE; ARIC B. SMITH, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants, 20 ch 1510

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(773) 523-3663

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Deadline Tuesday

12 p.m. noon

Sing-Along At Millennium Park

The new Millennium Park Holiday Sing-Along (previously "Caroling at Cloud Gate") will invite Chicagoans and visitors to sing out and celebrate the city's diverse holiday traditions on Friday, Dec. 17th from 6 to 7 p.m.

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Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF LODIA B. MITCHELL, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE HIGHLY OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, JOHN LYDON, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, FOR LODIA B. MITCHELL (DECEASED) Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 4, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 6, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 030R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 7914 S TROY ST, CHICAGO, IL 60652

Property Index No. 19-36-100-036-0000

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

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on certified funds at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

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

For information call Mr. Matthew C. Abad at Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever Law Group, 225 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606, (312) 236-0077. SP50004020FC1 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13182586

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT LOAN TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-BNCl, Plaintiff, vs. JOHNNIE ROLLAND, MARLYNNE L. ROLLAND, UNKNOWN OWNERS ALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants, 20 CH 2632

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P.I.N. 20-29-106-022-0000.
Commonly known as 1452 West 72nd Street, Chicago, IL 60636.

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WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, DBA CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER, TRUSTEE OF MATAVIN VENTURES TRUST SERIES 2017-3, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CHARLENE SIMS, ASA SIMS, JADA SIMS, POSSIBLE HEIR, SEAN SIMS POSSIBLE HEIR, WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE; ARIC B. SMITH, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants, 20 ch 1510

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Commonly known as 6905 SOUTH ADA STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60636.

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

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

For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever Law Group, 225 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606, (312) 357-1125. 20-00377 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13182586

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, DBA CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER, TRUSTEE OF MATAVIN VENTURES TRUST SERIES 2017-3, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CHARLENE SIMS, ASA SIMS, JADA SIMS, POSSIBLE HEIR, SEAN

Red Cross Seeks Heroes Nominations

The American Red Cross of Greater Chicago is accepting nominations to honor the heroes among us at its annual Heroes Breakfast in spring 2022. Every year the event honors local community members who have demonstrated heroism through extraordinary acts of courage or kindness. Visit redcross.org/heroes to fill out the online nomination form by Friday, Dec. 31st.

The act must have taken place during the 2021 calendar year or be on-going.

Honorees will be recognized during the 20th annual breakfast to be held in person at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan ave. on Wednesday, May 11th.

Categories are Community Impact, Disaster Relief, Education, Fire-fighter, Global Citizenship, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Lifesaving Rescue, Military, Social Justice impact and Youth.

“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.

Wreathed Lions At Art Institute



The annual wreathed lions at Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan ave. will receive their festive attire for the 30th year, through Jan. 7th. Stop by to see them all dressed up and then head inside for the many wonderful exhibits, including Barbara Kruger’s *Thinking of You, I Mean Me, I Mean You*. Visit website <https://www.artic.edu/>.

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, highlighting 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 Pujā Day and St. Lucia Day.

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

Scholarship For Early Childhood

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission, in collaboration with the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity announce the launch of the ECACE Scholarship Program. The scholarship is designed to encourage the pursuit of new credentials as well as more advanced education for current associate degree-holders working in early childhood education. Detailed information and a link to the 2021-22 application is now available at <https://www.isac.org/ECACEscholarship>.

To be eligible for the scholarship, those who are seeking credentials and/or a degree in early childhood education must currently be working or have worked in the early childhood field. This includes applicants who work or have worked in family childcare and center-based care settings. Applicants must provide documentation confirming their membership in the Gateways to Opportunity® Registry. Other eligibility requirements are available on ECACE Scholarship webpage.

For eligible students attending community colleges and public universities, the scholarship covers the total cost of attendance for an academic year (including summer) after other financial aid received. Students at participating non-profit private institutions may receive an amount no more than the cost of the most expensive program of study in the early childhood education field at an Illinois public college, after other financial aid received. Recipients of the scholarship are expected to continue or return to teaching or direct services in the early childhood care and education field in Illinois after they complete their program of study.

To apply for the scholarship for the 2021-22 academic year, students should complete the 2021-22 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, as well as the ECACE scholarship application and required documentation.

Nature Programs For Children

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct free Open Nature Play Day at the Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th and Western on Wednesday, Dec. 22nd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants will enjoy stories, art and exploration.

The Sand Ridge Nature Center will conduct a free Nature in Spanish: Oler (to smell) program on Sunday, Dec. 26th at 11 a.m. Participants will learn some common nature words and phrases in Spanish. Beginners are welcome.

For more information, visit fpdcc.com.

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

Free Admission To Art Institute

The Art Institute of Chicago will extend free admission to Illinois residents on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays through Dec. 17th, and Jan. 3rd through March 17th.

Tickets must be reserved online in advance at sales.artic.edu/admissions. Resident status will be verified using the zip code associated with the billing address provided.

Utility Relief For Low Income Families

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity reminded residents of utility relief available to low-income families. Through Governor Pritzker’s Help Illinois Families program, DCEO has launched over \$295 million in utility assistance programming available for low-income households and is accepting applications now through May 31, 2022, while funds remain.

Since the program first launched in September, over \$84 million in payments have been approved for 77,000 households through the Low-income Household Energy Assistance Program. More than \$200 million remains available to help cover the cost of heating and energy bills, including expanded benefits provided this year from \$750 to \$1,000 in

payments available, on average per household.

The State of Illinois and partners at the Citizens Utility Board are urging residents to take advantage of LIHEAP while funds remain available, and to avoid delaying payments on billing while the annual shut-off moratorium is underway (Dec. 1 – March 31).

Launched in September of this year, the current 2021-2022 Help Illinois Families program year provides \$336 million in household assistance for low-income families – including \$295 million for LIHEAP utility bill assistance.

Households at 200% federal poverty level or below are income-eligible.

To apply go to helpillinoisfamilies.com, or contact the hotline service providing real-time assistance in over 30 languages at 1-833-711-0374.

Navy Pier To Host New Year’s Eve Party



Photo courtesy of Navy Pier

Navy Pier will host the party of the year on Friday, Dec. 31st, in the opulent and historic Aon Grand Ballroom. New Year on the Pier features premium catering and bar, dancing, and live band and DJ entertainment with Chicago blue-eyed soul star Matt Kysia. A festive midnight countdown will welcome the return of Navy Pier’s famous fireworks show at midnight. Doors open at 8 p.m., and the party concludes at 1 a.m. Tickets are on sale now at NavyPier.org/New-Year.

The general admission Celebration Package includes premium spirits, craft and domestic beers, house wines, champagne, gourmet appetizers, party favors for the duration of the event, and photo opps galore. VIP admission also includes access to the VIP-only Balcony, exclusive rooftop access to view the fireworks, private food stations, ultra-premium

bar, party favors, and express entry.

A limited number of VIP Lounge Table Packages will be made available. The VIP Lounge Table Package includes 12 VIP tickets with lounge seating, skybox view of the stage and dance floor, dedicated server with table-side appetizer trays, beer and cocktail table service, and premium champagne.

For information about special services or group packages, email Jim@greencurtainevents.com.

Guests are invited to begin the fun earlier in the day by visiting Light Up the Lake an indoor, temperature-controlled experience, featuring indoor light garden, comprising more than 600,000 twinkling lights; Alpine ice rink with free skate rentals; and Alpine Pub in Festival Hall. Purchase tickets for Light Up the Lake at NavyPier.org.

Skating Rink Open At Brookfield Zoo



Photos—credit CZS-Brookfield Zoo

Brookfield Zoo’s skating rink on the East Mall is now open from 3 to 9 p.m. during the zoo’s 40th annual Holiday Magic, Dec. 16th-19th, and 26th-31st.

Bring the family to circle the rink, and then stroll around the park to see everyone’s favorite animals.

The zoo’s 40-foot x 80-foot skating rink is not made of ice, but of a synthetic plastic known as Glice®, a material composed of heat-pressed layers of polymers, so no water or electricity is required for operation.

The cost for unlimited time for all skaters is \$7. A limited number of skates are available to rent for a \$5 fee. Skaters are welcome to bring their own skates.

Create the ultimate winter outing and venture to Brookfield Zoo on one of its remaining Fall Free Days, presented by Xfinity—December 20th-21st. Many of the zoo’s cold-hardy animals, including the snow leopards, Bactrian camels, bison, Amur tiger, Mexican wolves, and Amur leopard can be seen in their outdoor habitats.

Stop around Roosevelt Fountain to view the more than 700 community and corporate decorated trees.

Admission is \$24.95 for adults, \$17.95 for children 3-11, and \$19.95 for seniors 65 and over. Parking is \$15, which applies on free days. For additional information, visit CZS.org.

Sports Clinic For Military

The Chicago Park District will stage a Veterans Windy City Winter Sports Clinic at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Tuesday, Feb. 8th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The urban adaptive sports clinic for veterans and active duty personnel will feature ice skating (equipment will be available), biathlon, curling, snowshoeing and more.

Proof of service is required. For additional information contact aimee.gottlieb@chicagoparkdistrict.com or andrew.grose@chicagoparkdistrict.com

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Lincoln Library Holds Art Contest

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Illinois State Board of Education are sponsoring an art contest on the theme, “Survival Through Self-Expression.” Students from kindergarten through high school have the freedom to interpret and create any two-dimensional art, such as a drawing, painting or collage.

Age groups are: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Entries must be mailed no later than Dec. 17th. The winners will be announced Feb. 12th, Abraham Lincoln’s birthday.

Each age group will have a winner and two runners-up, all of whom will have their work displayed at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum through March 18th, 2022. The artwork chosen as “best of show” will be used on a poster sent to all schools during Illinois Arts Education Week, March 14-18.

The winner will also be recognized at an ISBE Board meeting, and a framed copy will hang in its office.

Submissions may be up to 14 inches by 11 inches. They cannot feature copyrighted characters such as Batman.

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