



Will Literature Be A Battleground?



By Dr. R. Pletsch

There are many educational chat rooms that have an open forum for people to express their ideas. There have been some comments recently that the next fight might be over what is acceptable literature in the school curriculum. We may be entering a period of including authors and subjects some find questionable. If you follow some of these essays, you may come up with the idea that we will see more "cancel culture". Some people are suggesting that we eliminate books from the curriculum solely on who the author was and not the quality of the work. Is the author the wrong race? Have something in his past or maybe his relatives owned slaves? We must be careful. Remember some courts have ruled in favor of porn in public libraries. Will they go against authors because of politics instead of the content of the text?

Several school districts list the books and authors that are to be covered. But be prepared. For example, you would

not be able to read anything from ancient Greece or Rome because their works were done by the aristocracy, most of which owned slaves. Of course, about a half of the founding fathers owned slaves so some people want to get rid of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. This may seem far-fetched, but wait until you see what the Illinois General Assembly recently passed. I don't believe most people want to get rid of everything. The teachers mostly desire that our children be well educated even if the writers may not be what we today might consider as perfect.

As usual, parents, teachers and other educators should be careful to defend your children's right. We have a non-elected School Board, so having no election to worry about, who knows where they will stand. When we look at bills from Washington and Springfield, you must remember names of these bills are often deceptive and have nothing to do with the actual bill. Be careful if you just listen to the news about these bills because you could look on the website and look at the contents of the bills before they are passed.

Seriously there are many great works of literature your child should be exposed to. If the idea is just to be inclusive, that is important. But that which is chosen must also stand on the merit of the literature. While we hope for the expression of different groups, be it ethnic, political or gender, we must pick good literature not just because they meet other criteria. I believe we have to be careful that we don't end up banning or burning books.

New Arrivals At Brookfield Zoo



Photo credit: Jim Schultz/Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo.

Hope, a 5-year-old polar bear recently arrived at Brookfield Zoo. She will eventually be paired with Hudson, the zoo's 14-year-old male polar bear.

While Brookfield Zoo has been temporarily closed due to the pandemic, staff welcomed a new addition—Hope, a 5-year-old female polar bear. Since her Jan. 29th arrival, Hope has been enjoying the wintry weather that has descended upon the Chicago area. Guests will be able to see her in one of the outdoor habitats at Great Bear Wilderness.

Hope will eventually be introduced to Hudson, a 14-year-old male polar bear.

Born at Utah's Hogle Zoo, Hope's transfer to Brookfield Zoo was based on a recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Polar Bear Species Survival Plan. Nan, the female polar bear who

was most recently at Brookfield Zoo, was recently transferred to Como Park Zoo & Conservatory in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Polar bears are currently listed as a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The main threat of the species' decline is due to reduced access to their main source of food—seal—due to climate change melting the sea ice and other environmental factors.

Admission is \$24.95 for adults, \$17.95 for children ages 3-11, and \$19.95 for senior 65 and over. Parking is \$15. Visit CZS.org/KnowBeforeYouGo to review the safety protocols.

Assistance For Tax Preparation

Low-to-moderate income families and older Illinoisans needing assistance filing their 2020 individual income taxes can receive free help through several programs across the State of Illinois. The Internal Revenue Service and AARP Tax-Aide programs are providing free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals in select locations.

How taxpayer assistance is provided and when services are available varies by region, based upon several variables including COVID-19 conditions and volunteer capacity.

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs offer free tax help for individuals making \$57,000 or less, persons with disabilities, limited English speaking taxpayers and individuals 60 years of age or older. Taxpayers can search

for a free tax assistance provider closest to them by visiting the Illinois Department of Revenue's website tax.illinois.gov. Additional assistance is also being offered through the IRS-sponsored Ladder Up Virtual Tax Assistance Program, which also provides free basic tax return preparation for low-to-moderate income and elderly taxpayers.

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program provides free tax assistance to taxpayers over the age of 50 or who have low-to-moderate income. Availability is determined at the local or community level, by appointment only (walk-in service is unavailable this year).

Get the latest news and updates from the Illinois Department on Aging by following the department on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, or by calling the Senior Helpline at 1-800-252-8966 or by email aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov.

Flower Show At Garfield Conservatory



The Garfield Park Conservatory and Gardens, 300 N. Central park ave, has reopened the indoors to the general public. Virtual programming will also stay connected. The Spring

Flower Show: *Saturation* will welcome back guests through May 9th.

All 60-minute visits must be pre-booked at visitors@garfieldpark.org or (773) 638-1766.

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 April 27th from 4 to 5 p.m.

STEM Around the House will be available on Tuesdays, 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.

Citywide Tag Team Spanish Story Time for ages 0-5 and their caregivers will be held Fridays through April 2nd from 3 to 3:30 p.m. Two librarians will pair up to read some Spanish books and perform rhymes and songs. Register 24 hours in advance.

Homework Help: Virtual Teacher in the Library for kindergarten through 12th grade will be available Mondays, March 22nd, April 19th and May 17th from 3 to 5 p.m. Register at least one hour in advance.

Little Learners Story Tie for kids, pre-schoolers and toddlers will be held on Wednesdays through April 28th from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Ms. Casey from the West Loop Branch will read books and provide fun with fingerplays, songs, rhymes and movement.

The Humboldt Branch will conduct an intermediate Spanish Language Class on Saturday, March 6th from 3 to 4 p.m. All levels are welcome.

Register for events at chipublib.org.

City Speed Cameras Now Activated

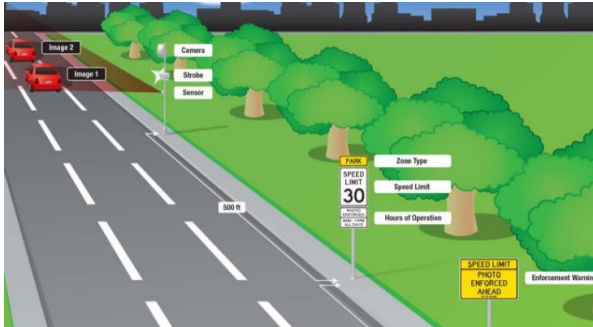


Photo Image by City of Chicago

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

Drivers going 6-10 mph over the limit in "Children's Safety Zones" 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.

Finalist For Teaching Award



R. ROJAS

Golden Apple, the Illinois nonprofit committed to preparing and supporting educators who advance opportunities for students, announced the 2021 finalists for the distinguished Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Leadership.

A competitive award process resulted in the selection of nine Pre-K-12th grade finalists from a record-setting 121 nominations. Rodolfo Rojas, Principal of Everett STEM Academy, 34th & Bell is a finalist for the

Golden Apple Award which honors exemplary performance by a principal or head of school who has had a significant impact on the school, created a culture of inclusivity, and delivered student growth.

The Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Leadership recipients receive a cash award of \$10,000, with \$5,000 for the school leader and \$5,000 to the school for a project of the recipient's choosing. Award recipients become Fellows of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, who play an important role in preparing the next generation of teachers.

Visit <http://www.goldenapple.org> for more information.

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.

Marvel Super Heroes At Science Museum



The Museum of Science and Industry, 57th & Lake Shore drive, will feature the interactive exhibition Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes, March 7th through Oct. 24th.

With more than 300 artifacts including original comic book pages, sculptures, interactive displays and costumes and props, guests can examine the origins of iconic characters such as Spider - Man, Black Panther, Hulk and Captain Marvel. The exhibit for all ages is not included in museum entry. Requires an additional, timed-entry ticket. Adults \$18, Children (3-11) \$14.

Easing Of Regulations For Chgo. Businesses

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, the Chicago Department of Public Health and Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection announced the further easing of COVID-19 regulations for businesses. Due to sustained progress in all four reopening metrics, indoor capacity at bars, restaurants and other businesses can increase to 50%.

Additionally, bars and restaurants can now remain open until 1 a.m., alcohol sales from liquor stores and other establishments with a Package Goods license can now continue until 11 p.m. and indoor fitness class size can increase to 20 people. Other regulations will remain in place for the time being, including the capacity limit of no more than 50 people within any one space at bars, restaurants, events and other venues.

This announcement is possible because Chicago has reached at least the "Moderate-Risk" level in all four of these metrics, and sustained that level for two weeks:

COVID cases diagnosed per day: currently averaging 283, in the "Moderate-Risk" level.

COVID test positivity: currently averaging 2.9%, in the "Lower-Risk" level. Emergency Departments visits for COVID-like illness: currently averaging 42 per day, in the "Lower-

Risk" level. ICU beds occupied by COVID patients: currently averaging 103, in the "Moderate-Risk" level.

Other industries, such as performance venues, health and fitness centers, movie theaters and personal services, can also increase to 50% capacity, with no more than 50 people within any one space and 20 people in indoor fitness classes. Additional easing of regulations will be considered if Chicago sustains existing risk levels for at least two weeks. More information will be available at chicago.gov/reopening.

Reopening For Park District

Chicago Park District General Superintendent & CEO Michael Kelly announced plans to reopen the city's lakefront, playgrounds and indoor aquatics programming as metrics allow the city to ease COVID-19 regulations.

Lakefront parks will be open during normal operating hours and parking fees will be required.

The Chicago Park District will soon unlock gates and prepare all 500+ outdoor playgrounds and nature play spaces to reopen, expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for children, ages 12 and under.

During the Spring programming session, indoor swimming pools will offer limited aquatics programming April 5th through June 13th. Spring registration begins Monday, March 8th.

Residents are encouraged to check the City of Chicago website for information on Protect Chicago and Protect Chicago Plus.

Tax Preparation Ladder Up Program

Ladder Up Tax Assistance program sites serve individuals earning up to \$30,000 per year and families earning up to \$57,000 per year. Free services are available through April 15th. Preparation of Federal and Illinois income tax returns for full-year Illinois residents.

To make an appointment, visit www.goladderup.org or call (312) 588-6900. The Brighton Park tax site location is at WIC Western, 5332 S. Western

Brady Honored

Destiny Brady, Architecture Undergraduate has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for the Fall 2020 semester. UWM is the second largest university in Wisconsin, with more than 23,000 associate, undergraduate and graduate students.

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Apply in person M-F 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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3 rooms, 1bdrm, 1st floor, hard-wood floors, \$720 month plus security deposit. Close to trans- portation.

53RD/SAWYER

3 Rooms, 1 bdrm, 1st fl., appli- ances, ceiling fan, coin laundry, owner heated, \$690 + 1-1/2 mnths security deposit.

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O'Brien Family Realty
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(773) 581-7800

Palos Hills Apartments

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

Call (833) 373-0161
for an appointment

4017 S. Kedzie, 1st floor rear, 2 bed- rooms, one bath. Credit and background check required. \$850 month plus one month deposit. (312) 375-6077.

3 BEDROOM apartment, 2nd floor. Re- frigerator, range. Tenant pays utilities. Parking space available. (312) 636-9283.

QUIET, clean secure room, 51st and Roman. (312) 953-0785.

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(708) 975-1532

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Call
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or email
brightonparklife@
aol.com

Deadline Tuesday
12 p.m. noon

**Lawyers Offer
Phone Advice**

Attorneys with the Chicago Bar Association's Call-A-Lawyer Program will be available to take calls at (312) 554-2001 from the public and offer legal advice on Saturday, March 20th from 9 a.m. to noon.

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

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

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

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
FIFTH THIRD MORTGAGE COMPANY Plaintiff,
vs.
DWAYNE WILLIAMS A/K/A DWAIN WILLIAMS, LISA WILLIAMS, CITIMORT- GAGE, INC., NEW CENTURY MORTGAGE CORPORATION Defendants
15 CH 10888
7950 SOUTH MORGAN STREET CHICAGO, IL 60620

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 13, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 30, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 7950 SOUTH MORGAN STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60620
Property Index No. 20-32-203-032-0000
The real estate is improved with a brick, two story single family home with a detached garage.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale pursuant 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 residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, is in certified funds prior to the sale. 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 condition of the property arise 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 hereby 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 605/15.5(a)(1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME- OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4612 (312) 346-9088
You may also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC
One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL, 60602
312-346-9088
E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com
Attorney File No. 20-04748IL_613657
Attorney ARDC No. 61256
Attorney Code. 61256
Case Number: 15 CH 10888
JSC# 41-206

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 15 CH 10888
13164561

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
LIMA ONE CAPITAL LLC; Plaintiff,
vs.
CDF PROPERTIES INCORPORATED; CARL D. FORD; CHRISTOPHER A. BROWN; CITY OF CHICAGO; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,
19 CH 7195

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Monday, March 29, 2021 at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described mortgaged real estate:
Commonly known as 5725 S. May Street, Chicago, IL 60621.
P.I.N. 20-17-217-013-0000.
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 call may NOT be open for inspection

For information, call Ms. Jennifer E. Walker at Plaintiff's Attorney, Plunkett Cooney, 221 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601, 312-670-6900.

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13164435

**Vaccine For Serious
Medical Conditions**

The Illinois Department of Health announced that people with serious medical conditions can be vaccinated, in line with federal guidance.

The expansion includes residents 16 and older with disabilities or underlying conditions who aren't otherwise covered in previous eligibility categories, in accordance with CDC guidelines. The state has made substantial progress toward vaccinating health care workers, seniors in long-term care facilities and others who are already eligible.

Illinois also vaccinated a record 130,000 people on Feb. 24th, including records for both first and second doses.

The expanded list of eligible conditions will include cancer, chronic kidney disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, diabetes, heart conditions, immunosuppressed states from a solid organ transplant, smoking, obesity, pregnancy, pulmonary diseases, and sickle cell disease.

State-supported sites outside of Cook County will begin taking appointments for the 1B+ phase. A list of these sites can be found at <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>. Appointments will remain limited.

Beginning in mid-March, an additional 100,000 doses of vaccine per day on average are expected to be allocated to the state. When the FDA Emergency Use Authorization is granted for the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, another 100 million doses are expected to be delivered nationwide.

**Virtual Tours Of
Cultural Center**

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events will present a prerecorded video tour series or a live 40 minute virtual docent led tour of the Chicago Cultural Center on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 11 a.m.

Video Tours available at any time from your own device at https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/ccc0.html

For more information VolunTours@cityofchicago.org.

**Design Impact
Grant Program**

Designing a Better Chicago, a collaborative initiative organized by NeoCon and theMART, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and the Design Museum of Chicago, is accepting nominations for its second annual Design Impact Grant Program. The 2021 initiative will provide \$25,000 in project-specific grants to individuals and organizations using design or design principles to directly address pressing issues communities.

Last year, Designing a Better Chicago offered this grant to Chicago Mobile Makers and Maplewood Housing for the Visually Impaired. It also recognized seven additional projects for their outstanding work, ideas, and efforts. The Design Impact Grant monies are funded by NeoCon and theMART.

Nominations are required for this invitation-only program and are due by midnight on March 12th. Grant guidelines and a timeline are available at designingabetterchicago.org.

Call4Calm
text "TALK" to 5-5-2-0-2-0

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

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

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

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

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**Lincoln Park Zoo
Opens March 5th**



Lincoln Park Zoo is coming out of hibernation! Reservations for the first weekend (Friday - Sunday, March 5th - 7th) will go live at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28th. Reservations for later dates will be available starting Sunday, March 7th.

Join Lincoln Park Zoo and the Auxiliary Board to celebrate Lincoln Park Zoo's reopening at home and in person with a limited-time Beers & Beers Celebration Pack. Each pack include: admission to Lincoln Park Zoo on reopening Saturday, March 6th (maximum six people, including infants). A ticket for your household to attend an exclusive virtual improv show by The Second City during the evening of Sunday, March 7th.

One reusable tot bag, one 32-ounce crowler of Grin and Bear it (a limited-edition milkshake IPA by DryHop Brewers, in collaboration with Lincoln Park Zoo), another 32-ounce crowler (DryHop's choice), two exclusive pint glasses, two koozies, and a bottle opener.

Pre-recorded DryHop and Lincoln Park Zoo video content that explores the wonderful world of wildlife and the process of brewing some of your favorite beers.

Discount on Lincoln Park Zoo's Craft Brews event in September. Snacks and swag from local partners.

For more information, www.lpzoo.org.

**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 to 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 fundraise \$200 and a Chicago Polar Plunge neck gaiter to the first 200 people who register.

Other prizes such as Yeti coolers, televisions, Apple Ipad's 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 for 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.

**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 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: 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.

Forest Preserve Offers Programs

The Cook County Forest Preserve District has scheduled free interesting programs.

Dan Ryans Woods Visitors Center, 87th and Western ave. will conduct an hour-long open nature play time on Fridays through March 26th from 12 to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays through March 31st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each week will also feature a story trail to incorporate literature into play and a take home activity kit. Registration is required with Jessica.Becker@cookcountyl.gov or (312) 415-2970.

Blue Island Public Library will conduct a Zoom presentation, "Birdwatching for Beginners" on Thursday, March 11th at 6 p.m. Registration is required at scain@blueislandlibrary.org.

Facebook Live from Little Red Schoolhouse will feature Making Sense of Senses on Thursday, March 18th at 10 a.m. Like all animals, our senses are directly linked to our survival. A few experiments will be conducted virtually to better understand how they work. Contact (708) 839-6897 or littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyl.gov.


Facebook Live from Crabtree Nature Center will explore Geoheritage

on Saturday, March 20th at 2 p.m. Learn about this global movement to save geologically dynamic locations, how it has been implemented in the United States, and what the future may hold. Registration is required at (847) 381-6592 or Crabtree.NatureCenter@cookcountyl.gov.

Facebook Live from Sand Ridge Nature Center will feature the birds of Cook County on Tuesday, March 23rd at 1 p.m. Contact (708) 868-0606 or sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyl.gov.

Facebook Live from Little Red Schoolhouse will explain the ecology of native frogs and why vernal pools are so important for their life cycles on Saturday, March 27th at 1:30 p.m. Contact: (708) 839-6897 or littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyl.gov.

**Girls On Run Chgo.
Names Board Prexy**



**Library Announces
Spring Concerts**

The Library of Congress will continue its season of Concerts with an offering of virtual concerts, interviews and conversations with artists and composers, lectures, curator talks and educational programs. The spring series kicks off on March 12th with a performance from the young musicians of the New World Symphony, followed by performances from Scottish pianist Steven Osborne on March 19th and the Dudok Quartet Amsterdam on March 26th.

All events will be made available at 7 p.m. on the scheduled premiere date on loc.gov/concerts, the Library's YouTube channel and the Performing Arts at the Library of Congress Facebook page. All events of the season are free, and tickets are not required.

**Webinars Explain
Money Management**

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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, Moraine Valley Community College and Midway Airport.

- Free Heat
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Ice Skating Ribbon Open at Maggie Daley



At Maggie Daley Park, 337 E. Randolph st. skaters can experience “alpine in the city” through March 7th, 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 magdiedaley.com.

State Promotes “Get Hired” Website

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Illinois Department of Employment Services launched Get Hired Illinois – a new portal designed to connect workers with available job and career training opportunities. Residents will have free access to online workforce development courses via a partnership with Coursera. With Illinois facing record unemployment as a result of COVID-19, the Coursera partnership and Get Hired page will serve as important measures in the efforts to get people back to work.

Residents and employers may access www.illinois.gov/gethired. The new portal blends resources to provide a one-stop-shop for job seekers and employers – providing information on job opportunities as well as unemployment resources. The page is designed to be user friendly for job seekers of all levels and backgrounds and allows employers to upload jobs, virtual career fairs and training opportunities.

Coursera provides workers looking for new employment opportunities additional resources for professional development. After completing the online programs, participants will have the opportunity to continue their studies at a local community college or university, or to connect with employers through their local workforce boards.

Campaign For Opioid Recovery

The Illinois Department of Human Services announced the #RecoveryBelongs social media campaign to increase awareness of International Overdose Awareness.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=118655>. If you or someone you know is suffering from an opioid use disorder or substance use disorder, contact the Illinois Helpline (833) 234-6343, texting "HELP" to 833234, or visiting: www.helplineIL.org.

Business Workshops For Certification

The City has created numerous initiatives to increase the number of skilled residents prepared to work in growing industries. Ensuring that disadvantaged populations have access to employment opportunities is a high priority. Workshops will cover the Project Area Resident Ordinance and local hiring requirements, apprenticeship utilization and ex-offender bid incentives. The Department of Family and Support Services and Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership will feature programs they offer.

How to Become Certified, Wednesday, March 10th, 2 to 3 p.m.

DPS is the certifying agency for the following certifications: Minority-Owned Business Enterprise, Women-Owned Business Enterprise, Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise for People with Disabilities, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise.

This workshop provides information on who is qualified to be a Chicago certified firm. Learn what documents are needed when submitting an application and how to avoid the most common mistakes in the certification process. Subject matter experts will be on-hand to answer questions about common certification topics.

Thursday, March 11th, 2 to 3 p.m. eProcurement applies digital technology to the acquisition of goods and services, which has now become the standard solicitation method due to statewide shelter in place requirements. This class focuses on assisting prospective bidders and proposers with registering for an iSupplier account and submitting an online bid to the City. This class is open to all interested in doing business with the City. Vendors who need to respond to an eProcurement solicitation as a result of a recent conversion from paper solicitations are encouraged to attend.

Working with Assist Agencies: Chicago Women in Trades and Revolution Workshop, Wednesday, March 17th, 2 to 3 p.m. Chicago Assist Agencies are comprised of not-for-profit agencies and/or chambers of commerce that represent the interests of small, local, minority, women, veteran, and disadvantaged-owned businesses. These organizations offer many resources to help businesses at every stage of their growth cycle as well as connect prime contractors with certified firms for subcontracting opportunities. This workshop will outline the role and responsibilities of an Assist Agency.

To register, sign up at chicago.gov/dpsevents.

Free Yoga Class At Conservatory



The Garfield Park Conservatory will present an online Yoga Class on Saturdays through March 27th from 9 to 10 a.m.

This class works to reduce stress while improving strength and flexibility through visualization, focused breathing, and yoga postures with modifications for all levels.

Beginners to advanced yogis are welcome to join. Pre-registration is required. This class is free but they welcome donations to help offset programming costs. Learn more at <https://garfieldconservatory.org/events/>

CDOT Promotes Traffic Safety

The Chicago Department of Transportation announced the start of two new Vision Zero community-engagement efforts to reduce traffic deaths and injuries in high-crash areas.

With the impacts of COVID-19, Chicago and many other cities experienced reduced traffic volumes that were and traffic deaths. According to provisional data, 139 people died in traffic crashes in Chicago in 2020, 43 more than in 2019.

Mayor Lightfoot’s Capital Plan, provides \$49 million over two years for the Complete Streets program. This investment includes \$10 million for Vision Zero and pedestrian safety treatments; \$17 million for expanded and upgraded bike facilities; and \$10 million for

investments in the City’s transit system, such as station-area and bus stop upgrades that help.

Under the Vision Zero Chicago Program, the City is using all the tools in its traffic safety toolbox to combat the rise in speeding and fatalities. This includes lowering speed limits where possible; reducing lanes dedicated to motor vehicles; investing in rapid delivery infrastructure projects to make streets safer and by using automated speed enforcement to deter speeding.

Last year, CDOT installed pedestrian safety infrastructure - such as pedestrian refuge islands and pedestrian bumpouts that extend the sidewalk and shorten the crossing distance - at over 250 intersections.

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.

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. Bi-weekly 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 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: 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.

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.

Vaccinations At United Center

A new federal vaccination site will open at the United Center, Madison and Wood st. on Tuesday, March 9th.

The site will have the capacity to administer 6,000 doses per day, all of which will be provided directly by the federal government and not taken out of the state or city’s allotment.

Seniors will have first access to appointments before the site opens, and if appointments remain available after seniors have had their exclusive registration period, any remaining slots will be open to any Illinoisans eligible under the state’s guidelines. After March 9th, registration will continue to be open for all Illinoisans eligible in the state’s Phase 1B+.

Registration will begin Thursday, March 4th at 8:30 a.m. at Zocdoc.com/vaccine or by calling (312) 746-4835. Through a city partnership with Uber 20,000 will be available.

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

CDPH Chicago Department of Public Health CHICAGO.GOV/CORONAVIRUS

Pappas Explains Property Taxes

M. PAPPAS

Resurfacing For Damen Avenue

A resurfacing project on Damen ave. from Garfield blvd. to Marquette road is tentatively scheduled to begin on Monday, March 8th pending clearance from existing utilities.

The work will include ADA sidewalk improvements, curb and gutter removal and replacement, milling the existing asphalt pavement, asphalt paving, landscaping and striping.

Temporary “No Parking” signs will be installed as required.

All work on this corridor is scheduled to be completed by May 28th.

5621 S. Nottingham Ave. - Location, Location, Location.

New Price 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.

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

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(At Austin)

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Applications for Admission to Namaste Charter School

2020-2021 Namaste Charter School applications for students in grades Kindergarten - 8th will be available beginning October 5, 2020 and are due **by 4:00 pm on March 5, 2021.**

Lottery:
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 9:00am

Register at: <https://www.airmeet.com/e/b4e44fd0-55c2-11eb-bfea-09aaa05c3416>

Namaste Charter School currently serves 485 students in grades K-8 and is now accepting applications for the Fall of 2021 for students of all grade levels.

Namaste Charter School promotes curiosity and lifelong student success by implementing and sharing a holistic educational model. We combine health and wellness with academic rigor in a safe and inclusive environment.

The school’s commitment to the physical, social emotional, and academic well-being of its students, along with the incredible dedication and support of its families and staff, creates a unique school culture that improves each student’s individual capacity to learn and reach higher academic achievement – an innovative and successful program that has been lauded in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, WGN News, DNA info, on NBC’s The Today Show, CNN and many other media outlets.

As a leader in holistic education, Namaste’s curriculum is designed to feed both the minds and bodies of its students through: daily rigorous instruction in balanced literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, and 60 minutes of physical education; nutritional breakfast and lunch menus; and movement opportunities during morning and afternoon recess. The school also offers a Spanish-English dual language program option, an afterschool programming option, and a school day running from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm Monday – Thursday and 8:30 am - 1:30 pm on Fridays.

Namaste Charter School is open to all Chicago residents. Applications can be found on the school’s website at www.namastecharterschool.org/2021-application, or at the school’s main office at 3737 S. Paulina, Chicago, IL 60609. All applications MUST be submitted by 4:00 pm on Friday, March 5, 2021. For more information, please call 773-715-9558 or visit www.namastecharterschool.org.

Free Program For Finances

The Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, in partnership with the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund and Heartland Alliance, announced the launch of the free Financial Navigators Program to help residents deal with the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. To sign up, residents should call 773-799-9062 or submit an online interest form at chicago.gov/FSS.

During a one-on-one session by phone, a financial navigator will identify steps to resolve financial issues. The resident will receive a document via email outlining those next steps.

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