

19th  
WARD

Quarterly

A Publication of the 19th Ward Youth Foundation

Matthew J. O'Shea

NOVEMBER 2016

Register for the Beverly Hills Turkey Trot Today!

On Saturday, November 26th, the 19th Ward Youth Foundation will host the 8th Annual Beverly Hills Turkey Trot 5K Run and Family Walk through the beautiful tree lined streets of North Beverly. Proceeds from this event will benefit the John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation and 19th Ward Youth Foundation. The race begins promptly at 9:00 am with the start and finish line at 92nd and Hamilton Avenue.

Registration is open for both the run and family walk. The race will be chip timed and runners will compete on a certified 5K course. The untimed family walk allows people to take part in the festivities even if they are not serious runners. Pre-registration is \$30 per runner/walker or \$60 per family. Registration is available at the event for \$35 per runner/walker and \$75 for families. CARA members may run for a



discounted \$20 pre-registration fee and \$25 on race day. Register today by visiting the 19th Ward Office at 10400 S. Western Avenue or online at [www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com).

Runners will be divided by age and sex according to CARA recommended guidelines with awards given for each age group. All event participants will receive a t-shirt and gift bag. Additionally, a post-race party will be held at the Christ the King gymnasium. The after party will feature booths from sponsors and local vendors, as well as entertainment.

The 19th Ward Youth Founda-

tion would like to thank The PrivateBank for their generosity in serving as our presenting sponsor for this event. We would also like to thank our other major sponsors, Comcast Cable, Com Ed and AthleteX. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Matt O'Shea at [mat-toshea@the19thward.com](mailto:mat-toshea@the19thward.com) or call (773) 238-0288.

**About Our Beneficiaries**

The 19th Ward Youth Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that supports and hosts a wide variety of safe, healthy, educational youth

programs for families in Beverly, Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood. All programs are made available at little or no cost to participants and are intended to help our neighborhood youth make new friends and stay active in the community.

The John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that supports research on pediatric brain tumors. They push for advancements in the care and treatment of pediatric brain tumor patients by facilitating better coordination of information between patients and providers, improving the quality of life for patients, and funding specifically targeted pediatric brain tumor research and treatment options to achieve our ultimate goal: the eradication of pediatric brain tumors.

Cunningham and Hurley  
invite employers to job fair

Senator Bill Cunningham and Representative Fran Hurley will partner with the Illinois Department of Employment Security for a hiring fair at Orland Park Civic Center located at 14750 Ravinia in Orland Park on November 18. This is an opportunity for employers throughout the district to meet with potential employees and network about current and future opportunities.

"One of the most important things we can do as public officials is connect job seekers with employment opportunities," Cunningham said. "We urge employers in our community to come out and meet with candidates about opportunities within our district."



The event is open to the general public and runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the first half-hour is set aside for veterans only.

Due to the limited amount of space available, employers must reserve their spot by going to [www.senatorbillcunningham.com](http://www.senatorbillcunningham.com).

If anyone has any questions they can contact the district office of Senator Cunningham and Representative Hurley at 773-445-8128.

Senator Cunningham represents portions of Worth, Orland and Palos Townships in the southwest suburbs and the neighborhoods of Mt. Greenwood, Beverly, Morgan Park and Auburn-Gresham in Chicago.

BARRACO'S  
Restaurant, Pizzeria and Catering  
Project Moves Forward

On Thursday, October 27th the Barraco family closed on the first phase of the redevelopment of the former Beverly Branch Library at 2121 W. 95th Street. Phase one includes total renovation of the small building at the eastern edge of the property into a pizza caf  and kitchen, as well as improvements to the parking lot. The Barraco Family looks forward to completing this work later this year. Once open, the pizza caf  will accommodate approximately forty people with a limited menu similar to what is found at other Barraco's locations.

A second phase, which includes the renovation of the larger building at the corner of 95th and Hamilton into a private event space to be called "The Vineyard," will move forward in early 2017. The restaurant will also enter into a ten



year lease of the underutilized City owned parking lot at 95th & Pleasant Ave.; the agreement includes an option to purchase the lot at the end of the ten years. This redevelopment represents a \$1.3 million investment in the 95th Street commercial strip and will generate approximately 30 temporary and 90 permanent jobs as well as significant tax revenue for our community.

Originally, the Barraco's intended to begin renovation at the main building before moving on to the parking lot and smaller building. Following a fire at their Evergreen Park location, the family shifted the schedule. Completing the caf  space first will provide badly needed kitchen space to accommodate holiday catering orders.

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Chicago, IL 60643



# ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S

## *Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner*

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2016 • 5:00 P.M.**  
**CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**  
**3857 W. 111th St.**

All 19th Ward Senior Citizens are invited to enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving meal grown and prepared at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, the only fully functioning farm in the City of Chicago. A \$5 donation is requested but not required.

Reservations are mandatory and can be made by calling (773) 238-8776.



Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item for the Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry.

**Matt  
O'SHEA**  
19TH WARD ALDERMAN

**Bill  
Cunningham**  
ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR 18<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**Fran  
Hurley**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 35<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



**Alvin Green**  
PRIVATE CHEF





# NOTES FROM THE



## 19th Ward YOUTH FOUNDATION

Dear Neighbor,

The past few months have been very exciting for our community. The third annual Beverly Art Walk was a huge success, and programs at the Morgan Park Sports Center at 115th & Western Ave. continue to exceed our expectations. Included with this issue, please find information on holiday promotions at our local businesses and seasonal activities for our kids.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, so to does the 8th Annual Beverly Hills Turkey Trot 5K Run and Family Walk. This year's Turkey Trot will be held on Saturday, November 26th at Christ the King School and is a great way to spend a healthy day with family and friends while supporting local charities. Take advantage of pre-registration discounts by signing up today at [www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com).

Below, I have included a map of our community police beats and a schedule of local CAPS meetings. These meetings give residents the opportunity to become acquainted with the police officers who patrol our streets on a daily basis. The Chicago Police Department is committed to keeping our community safe.

If you have any questions or would like information included in our next issue, please contact [mattoshea@the19thward.com](mailto:mattoshea@the19thward.com). To receive regular community updates, visit our website at [www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com) and sign up for our e-mail distribution list.

Thank you,

Matthew J. O'Shea

19th Ward Youth Foundation

## CAPS Meeting Calendar

### BEATS 2211 & 2212

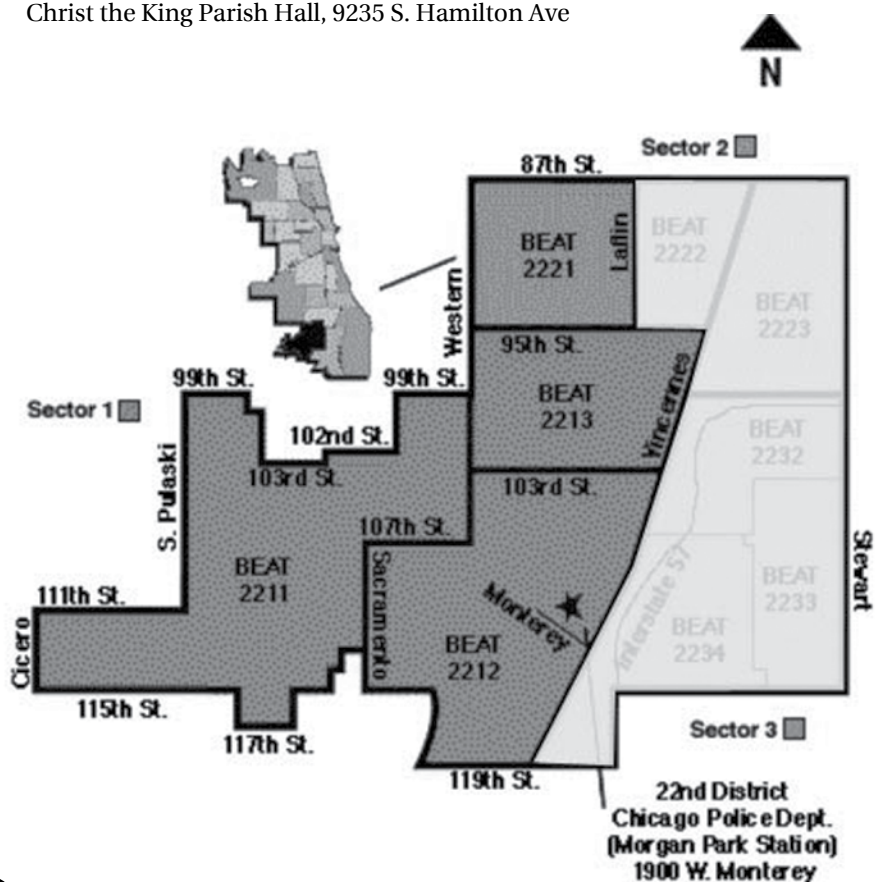
First Thursday of the month at 7:00pm  
March, May, June, August, October, December  
22nd District Police Station, 1900 W. Monterey Ave.

### BEAT 2213

Second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm  
March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November  
Ridge Park, 9625 S. Longwood Dr.

### BEAT 2221

First Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm  
March, April, May, June, July, September, October, November  
Christ the King Parish Hall, 9235 S. Hamilton Ave



## Quarterly

A 19th Ward Youth Foundation Publication  
Matthew J. O'Shea, Alderman

### Beverly / Morgan Park Service Office

10400 S. Western Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60643-2508  
(773) 238-8766 (phone)  
(773) 672-5133 (fax)  
[colleen@the19thward.com](mailto:colleen@the19thward.com)

### Mount Greenwood Service Office

3215 W. 111th St.  
Chicago, IL 60655  
(773) 238-8776 (phone)  
(773) 672-5130 (fax)

### City Hall Office

121 N. LaSalle St., Room 200  
Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 744-3072  
[www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com)



# Retiree Health Care

## O'Shea Opposes Retiree Health Care Shift

Dear Neighbor:

In 1986, the City of Chicago rescinded health care for retired employees. Since then, there have been a series of agreements and lawsuits on this topic. In September of 2016, a state appeals panel confirmed the City's ability to permanently phase out retiree health care benefits for those who retired after August 23, 1989; this decision is currently on appeal.

The 19th Ward is home to 1,175 retired municipal employees. This shift has created an undue financial burden for these residents, most of whom believed they would continue to receive this service indefinitely. The health care phase out is not something that I support in any way, nor is it something that came before the City Council for a vote. It is my sincere hope that the Supreme Court will recognize the undue burden this places on retirees, and reverse the lower court's decision.

Despite my strong opposition to this action, I am committed to working with residents to provide information and resources. Personal health care is a complicated and important issue. To provide assistance to retirees during this difficult transition, the City has worked with Blue Cross Blue Shield to offer a variety of plans and options. Please note, no retiree is obligated to utilize these plans; everyone is free to explore alternative options.

Unions representing retired Chicago Firefighters and Police Officers have also sponsored plans through Aetna. If you are interested in more information about these plans, please contact your union before choosing a plan. If you need assistance with any Medicare related issue, please contact Jerry Mulvihill from Congressman Lipinski's Office at (773) 767-9395.

Below, please find some information about the plans arranged by the City of Chicago for retirees. Please remember that these plans are only one option. Should you have any questions, please call one of the numbers below.

Sincerely,

  
Matthew J. O'Shea  
Alderman, 19th Ward

## City Retiree Health Insurance Update

2016 is the final year of a three-year phase out of City of Chicago retiree healthcare plan coverage\*. Retirees will no long be covered by a City provided health plan at the end of the year, and these retirees must enroll in other insurance for 2017 to avoid a gap in coverage.

**Medicare Eligible City Retirees** who have Medicare Parts A and B will need to sign up for other supplemental insurance, for example a Medicare Supplement, Part D Prescription Drug plan, or a Medicare Advantage Plan.

The City made arrangements to help Medicare Retirees to find supplemental insurance and they have been notified of the following:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois is offering a Medicare Advantage Plan for Medicare eligible City Retirees. Enrollment packets have been mailed to retirees with a phone number to call (1-877-566-8520) to speak with a Blue Cross representative.
- A Chicago based company called GoHealth is available to help Retirees explore and compare other options to supplement Medicare, with a phone number to call (1-855-785-7841) to speak with a GoHealth representative.
- For general Medicare questions, Retirees were informed that they should call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

**Non-Medicare Eligible City Retirees** can enroll in plans available on the health insurance Marketplace (also known as the Exchange) or through private insurance companies.

The City made arrangements to help non-Medicare Retirees find other insurance and they have been notified of the following:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois is offering City Retirees two PPO plans that include a network of doctors and hospitals not available in the Marketplace. Blue Cross has mailed enrollment packets to retirees with a phone number to call (1-800-292-6398) for more information.
- GoHealth is available to help non-Medicare Retirees shop and compare benefits and costs of insurance plans on the Marketplace, and find out if they qualifying for lower monthly costs (subsidies). GoHealth also helps explore non-Medicare coverage options with private insurance companies. The phone number to call is 1-855-785-7842 to speak with a GoHealth representative.

**Don't forget to enroll now to avoid a gap in coverage.**

\*Does not include City Retirees who retired before August 23, 1989



## Questions about applying for Medicare if you are over 65

Medicare has delegated enrollment activities to Social Security Administration. It handles enrollment for both Social Security income benefits and Medicare.

If you are at least 64 years and 9 months old and want to sign up for Medicare but do not currently have ANY Medicare coverage, call Social Security's national toll-free service at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit (call ahead to make an appointment). Below are some questions that will help you determine Medicare eligibility:

- *Can I buy Medicare Part A and Part B if I didn't enroll at age 65?*
- *Can I enroll if my spouse has paid into Medicare?*
- *Can you check on the eligibility of my current or ex-spouse?*
- *Can I get financial assistance to help buy Part A Medicare?*
- *When will my Part A Medicare coverage become effective?*
- *Is there another way I can get Part A?*
- *Can I buy into Part B?*
- *Do I have to pay a penalty because I didn't sign up for Medicare Part B when I turned 65?*

Phone lines are open 7:00 am - 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Best time to call is before 8:30 a.m. or after 5:30 p.m.

You Tube: (good video on enrollment mostly targeted to pre-65 year olds) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvHkJT0gENw&feature=plcp>

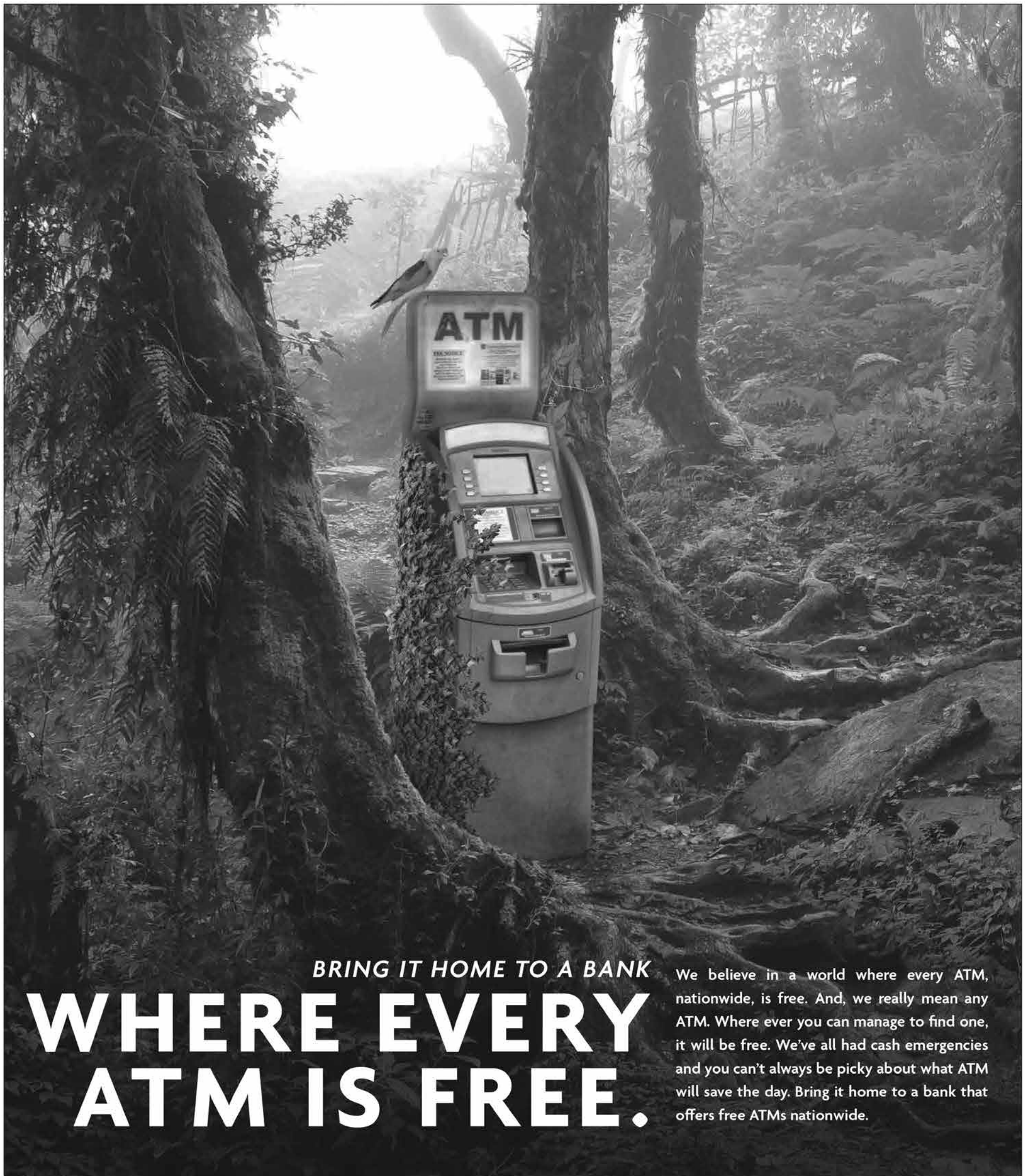
Ways to apply online: <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/apply-for-benefits.html>

How to start the Medicare application process with an explanatory video: <https://secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/rib>

## Resources for Retiree Healthcare Information

Medicare	<a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a> 1-800-MEDICARE 1-800-633-4227 TTY: 1-877-486-2048	Questions about eligibility, options, buying into Medicare
Social Security Administration	1-800-772-1213	Enrolling in Medicare
Healthcare.gov	1-800-318-2596	Questions about eligibility, subsidies and purchasing on the Exchange
Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare Plans	1-877-566-8520	Questions about BCBS Medicare plan options
Blue Cross Blue Shield Non Medicare Plans	1-800-292-6398	Questions about BCBS Non-Medicare plan options
GoHealth Medicare	1-855-785-7841	To speak with a licensed insurance agent about Medicare plans: (options other than the BCBS and Aetna)
GoHealth Non-Medicare	1-855-785-7842	To speak with a licensed insurance agent about Non- Medicare plans: (options other than the BCBS and Aetna)
Chicago Benefits Office	1-877-299-5111	General questions about current medical coverage
Labor 1st – FOP	1-855-979-8840	Phone number from the FOP mailing
Labor 1st – Fire	1-877-660-7919 or 1-312-248-6508	Phone number from the Fire Union website
MEABF	1-312- 236-4700	Municipal Pension Fund
LABF	1-312-236-2065	Laborer's Pension Fund
PABF	1-312-744-3891 1-800-656-6606	Police Pension Fund
FABF	1-312-726-5823	Fire Pension Fund





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# WHERE EVERY ATM IS FREE.

We believe in a world where every ATM, nationwide, is free. And, we really mean any ATM. Where ever you can manage to find one, it will be free. We've all had cash emergencies and you can't always be picky about what ATM will save the day. Bring it home to a bank that offers free ATMs nationwide.

## GET FREE ATMS WITH TOTAL ACCESS CHECKING!

Only \$100 required to open.

Use any ATM nationwide and we'll refund the fee!<sup>1</sup>

**FOR A LIMITED TIME**  
**GET \$100**

directly deposited into your new account when you open a new Total Access Checking Account by 12/31/16, enroll in e-statements, and we receive a direct deposit by 1/31/17.<sup>2</sup>

**BEVERLY BANK**  
& TRUST COMPANY N.A.<sup>TM</sup>

BEVERLY'S NEIGHBORHOOD BANK

10258 S. Western Ave. | Chicago, IL 60643  
773-239-2265 | [www.thebeverlybank.com](http://www.thebeverlybank.com)

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1. The bank does not charge its customers a monthly card usage fee. No transaction charge at any ATM in the Allpoint, MoneyPass, or Sum surcharge-free networks. Other banks outside the network may impose ATM surcharges at their machines. Surcharge fees assessed by owners of other ATMs outside the network will be reimbursed. Reimbursement does not include the 1.10% International Service fee charged for certain foreign transactions conducted outside the continental United States. 2. Limit one per customer. \$100 deposit bonus is IRS 1099-INT reportable. \$100 deposit bonus applies only to new Total Access Checking customers. \$100 deposit bonus will be deposited into Total Access Checking account by 3/1/17. Employees of Wintrust Financial Corp. and its subsidiaries are ineligible.

MEMBER  
**FDIC**





## SUPPORT A "BUONA" CAUSE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016

10:30 AM - 10:00 PM

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT:**  
Beverly Hills Turkey Trot



Beverly  
10633 S. Western Ave.  
(773) 941-6980

25% of all sales (dine-in, carry-out, drive-thru and Buona by-the-pound) incurred as a result of your participation will be donated directly to Beverly Hills Turkey Trot. Flyer must be presented when ordering. BUONA gift certificates/cards and coupons will not be honored.

Visit [BUONA.com](http://BUONA.com) to order or to view a menu  
Interested in setting up a Buona Benefit Night? Email us at [fundraising@buona.com](mailto:fundraising@buona.com)!



**#BUONABEEF**

## LIVE 19 Shops Local for the Holidays

Please join us as we showcase local artisans!  
You'll have a chance to mingle with friends  
and put a dent in your holiday shopping!

**Tuesday, November 22, 2016**  
**7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.**

### Barraco's

3047 W. 111th Street

\$5 admission (includes a raffle ticket, pizza and pop)  
Cash bar

### Vendors:

Barre It All  
Kiddie Kouture  
Our Secret Garden  
Radiant Relic Jewelry  
Second Hands  
Sunflower  
Sweet Freaks  
Two Crazy Daisies  
You Glow Girl  
And more...

10% of the proceeds will go to  
the Live Like John Foundation  
supporting pediatric brain  
tumor research.

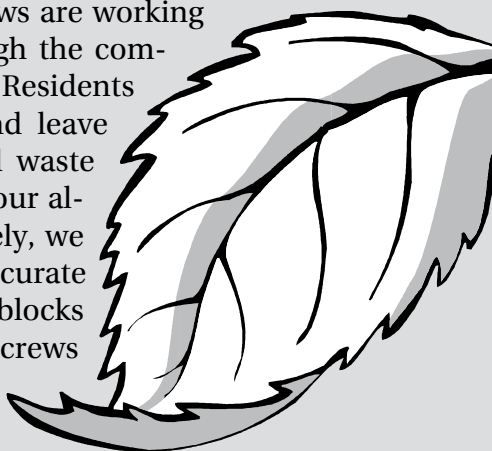


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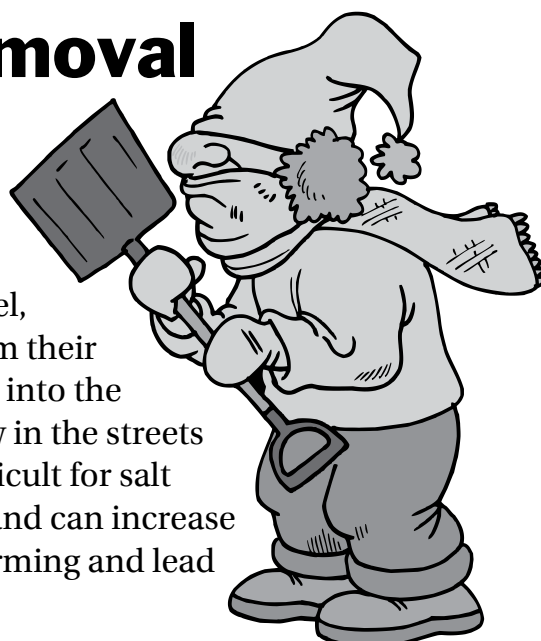
## Yard Waste & Leaf Pick Up

Collection of yard waste and leaves has been extremely backed up. Our crews are working hard each day to get through the community as fast as they can. Residents are asked to be patient and leave yard waste in either a yard waste garbage cart or bagged in your alley or parkway. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide an accurate schedule of when individual blocks will be picked up, but the crews will continue working until they have collected from the entire ward.



## Snow Removal Notice

As winter months approach, all residents are asked NOT to shovel, plow or blow snow from their sidewalks or driveways into the streets. This extra snow in the streets makes it extremely difficult for salt trucks to get through, and can increase the chances of ice reforming and lead to accidents.



INTELLECTUALLY COMPETENT | RELIGIOUS | OPEN TO GROWTH | LOVING | COMMITTED TO JUSTICE AND SERVICE

## THINKING ABOUT JOINING THE PACK?

### CAMPUS VISIT PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 9, 2016

Spend a day as an Ignatian!

Open to 8th grade students

Register at [www.ignatius.org](http://www.ignatius.org)

### OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016  
12:00 - 3:00 PM

Enjoy a student-guided tour with your family!

Meet with faculty, staff, clubs and coaches while visiting our beautiful facilities and classrooms

No registration necessary

### ENTRANCE EXAM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2017  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

High School Placement Test (HSPT)

Bring a \$25 test fee and #2 pencils

No registration necessary



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# Beacon invites you to the 24th Annual Holiday Supper in Beverly

Honored Guests include Charles Thomas ABC7 and his wife Mary

Beacon Therapeutic Diagnostic and Treatment Center will be hosting its 24th Annual Holiday Supper Friday, December 2, 2016 from 6:30pm – 10:30pm at its Longwood Campus located at 10650 S. Longwood Drive in Chicago. This well-regarded fundraiser kicks off the holiday season in the spirit of giving which benefits Beacon's Programs.

For only \$75.00, guests will revel in a night of delicious food, open bar, impressive silent auction, raffles, romantic carriage rides throughout the beautiful Beverly neighborhood, and caroling by the Mother McAuley Acapella Choir.

"At Beacon, we truly believe in the unbreakable power of the human spirit to overcome and persevere. We believe, and our program participants continue to demonstrate to themselves and their communities, that it is never too late to write a new ending to a disadvantaged beginning," said Susan

Reyna-Guerrero, LCSW, President & CEO at Beacon Therapeutic.

Event honorees include: "Brightest Light in Illinois" Rose Bilecki, "Opening Doors to the Future" – Brian O'Shea/Clune Construction; "The Warmest Heart" – The Blue Island Healthcare Foundation; The Children's

**Beacon Therapeutic**

Diagnostic and Treatment Center

Champion-Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. and Risk Management Services.

These honorees have passionately warmed the hearts of so many children and families through their compassion, kindness and generosity.

Make your reservations today, or submit an Ad for the Ad Book, donate an auction item, or inquire about sponsorship opportunities by contacting Peggy Rourke, Director of Development, at prourke@beacon-therapeutic.org or call 773-881-1005. Join us in honoring these amazing people and all they have done to make a significant difference in the community, and in the lives of children.

## Flu Shots Available – 12/6

Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, and Representative Fran Hurley will partner with Walgreen's Pharmacy to provide influenza immunizations on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the 19th Ward Community Room, 10402 S. Western Ave. Walgreen's staff will be on hand to assist with paperwork necessary to bill your insurance. In the event that you do not have insurance, Walgreen's will have vouchers available in order to receive the vaccination at no cost.

Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to

severe illness. Serious outcomes of flu infection can result in hospitalization or death. Some people, especially senior citizens, young children, and people with certain health conditions, are at high risk for serious flu complications. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting vaccinated each year.

Flu vaccinations will be available to people over 10 years old. No appointment is necessary and vaccinations are provided on a first come, first served basis. For more information, please call (773) 238-8766 or email Tristan@cityofchicago.org.



## 19TH WARD

### DOCUMENT SHREDDING, ELECTRONICS RECYCLING & PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL



SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 2016

9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

SAINT BARNABAS SCHOOL  
PARKING LOT  
10121 S. LONGWOOD DR.

This service is provided free of charge, but is open to 19th Ward residents only. Documents are shredded on site.

Only documents that are loose can be shredded; please remove any staples or binders before you arrive.

SPONSORED BY:

**Matt O'SHEA**  
19TH WARD ALDERMAN

**19th Ward**  
YOUTH FOUNDATION

**Bill Cunningham**  
ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR • 18TH DISTRICT

**Fran Hurley**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 35TH DISTRICT

**Tom DART**  
Cook County Sheriff



**Saint Barnabas**  
Catholic Church

# SAT. DEC. 3, 2016

from 1 to 5 pm

KICKING OFF FROM

**G**

**OLIVIA'S GARDEN**

VISIT *Santa* AT BEVERLY BANK!

## TREE LIGHTING

5 PM KING LOCKHART PARK

# SHOP LOCAL

Pick up your Cookie Crawl Map and explore our local merchants for holiday gifts, a special raffle, music, fun surprises and more!

THE MOVIE "ELF" AT THE BEVERLY ARTS CENTER ♥ 7PM

**BAPA**  
Beverly Area Planning Association

**BEVERLY BANK**  
& TRUST COMPANY N.A.  
AWINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK

**Mike Haggerty**  
BUICK GMC VOLKSWAGEN  
IN OAK LAWN



# Feds issue sharp criticism of CSX Railroad, local officials push for sanctions

The U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) issued a rare, written rebuke of CSX Railroad in October for ongoing mismanagement of the Elsdon Rail Line, which has been plagued by stopped and slow moving trains since being acquired by CSX.

The new STB findings, which criticized CSX for not following operational procedures to prevent idling trains from blocking grade crossings, came in response to a complaint filed by attorneys from the City of Chicago and Village of Evergreen Park.

"The STB has officially recognized what we have been saying all along, that CSX has repeatedly broken legally binding promises they made to federal regulators when they won approval to operate the Elsdon Line in our community," said State Senator Bill Cunningham. "We feel vindicated by these findings, and we are anxious to see that CSX is held accountable."

The Elsdon Line, which runs parallel to Sacramento Ave. through the 19th Ward and crosses the center of Evergreen Park near 95th and Kedzie, was acquired by CSX in 2013. It previously was owned and operated by the Canadian National Railroad. In order to win the STB's approval for taking



over the Elsdon Line, CSX promised to adhere to dozens of "mitigation measures" to minimize the environmental impact on nearby residents, businesses, and emergency medical transports to Advocate Christ and Little Company of Mary Hospitals.

Among those measures was an assurance from CSX that if any stopped train blocked a grade crossing for ten minutes, the engineer would "cut" the train so vehicle traffic would be allowed to pass through. But the STB ruled that since taking over the Elsdon Line, CSX "had not cut a single train, even in instances where the blockages lasted hours."

Additionally, CSX promised in their original agreement with the

STB that they would not send trains down the Elsdon tracks unless the line was clear of intersecting rail traffic from other freight operators. However, the STB found that CSX has not properly communicated with other railroads, causing numerous CSX trains to stop on the Elsdon Line to wait for other trains to cross intersecting tracks.

The STB also criticized CSX for unusually high rates of failed crossing gates on the Elsdon Line. Documentation provided by the Evergreen Park Police Department documented dozens of instances when crossing gates remained down long after trains had cleared intersections.

Most damning, the STB's ruling raised the possibility that CSX was

not forthcoming in their dealings with federal regulators, saying that the railroad's behavior "raises the question of whether (CSX) made a representation that it knew or should have known it could not meet."

Cunningham and Alderman Matt O'Shea traveled to Washington D.C. in October to testify at a special meeting called by the STB to examine CSX's operational failures.

"We expressed to the STB that CSX's problems are not only a frustrating inconvenience to our constituent, but they also create a real danger in our area," Cunningham said. "Blocking the ambulance routes to Christ Hospital's trauma center is a public safety concern for our community and the entire South Side."

According to attorneys for the City of Chicago and Evergreen Park, the STB will give CSX an opportunity to respond to their findings with a new plan to cut back on grade crossing blockages and address other concerns that have been presented. The STB has already imposed expanded reporting requirements on CSX. In the future, the board could impose new operational changes on CSX or issue a fine against them.

## 19<sup>TH</sup> WARD SENIOR CITIZEN

# New Year's Eve at Noon Party

**Saturday, December 31, 2016 • 11:30 A.M.**

**Beverly Woods Restaurant**

11532 S. Western Ave.

Cost: \$5

Reservations Required

Delicious Lunch Provided

For reservations please call 773-238-8766



Hosted by:

**Matt O'SHEA**  
19TH WARD ALDERMAN

**Bill Cunningham**  
ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR 18<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**Fran Hurley**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 35<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**Beverly Woods**

**Smith VILLAGE**



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2016**

**When:** Saturday, November 26, 2016, 9:00 A.M.

**Race course entertainment provided.**

**Register online today! [www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com)**

\* T-Shirts are only guaranteed for those that pre-register. Runners will be divided into age and gender categories based on CARA guidelines. The family walk is an untimed event.

**Packet Pickup Schedule:**

Saturday, November 19, 2016, 10:00am-12:00pm  
The PrivateBank – Mt. Greenwood Branch, 3052 W. 111th St.

Monday, November 21, 2016, 3:00pm-7:00pm  
Running Excels, 10328 S. Western Ave.

Friday, November 25, 2016, 12:00pm-5:00pm  
19th Ward Service Office, 10402 S. Western Ave.

**Sponsors:**

The PrivateBank, Comcast, ComEd, and AthleteX

The map shows the route from the Kellogg School to the MIRA-95th Station. The route is marked with a thick black line and arrows, starting from the Kellogg School, heading north on S Hamilton Ave, then east on W 92nd St, and finally south on S Western Ave. The map includes various streets, parks, and landmarks.

Streets shown include S Hamilton Ave, S Western Ave, S Oakley Ave, S Claremont Ave, S 92nd St, S 94th St, S 96th St, S 98th St, S 100th St, S 102nd St, S 104th St, S 106th St, S 108th St, S 110th St, S 112th St, S 114th St, S 116th St, S 118th St, S 120th St, S 122nd St, S 124th St, S 126th St, S 128th St, S 130th St, S 132nd St, S 134th St, S 136th St, S 138th St, S 140th St, S 142nd St, S 144th St, S 146th St, S 148th St, S 150th St, S 152nd St, S 154th St, S 156th St, S 158th St, S 160th St, S 162nd St, S 164th St, S 166th St, S 168th St, S 170th St, S 172nd St, S 174th St, S 176th St, S 178th St, S 180th St, S 182nd St, S 184th St, S 186th St, S 188th St, S 190th St, S 192nd St, S 194th St, S 196th St, S 198th St, S 200th St, S 202nd St, S 204th St, S 206th St, S 208th St, S 210th St, S 212nd St, S 214th St, S 216th St, S 218th St, S 220th St, S 222nd St, S 224th St, S 226th St, S 228th St, S 230th St, S 232nd St, S 234th St, S 236th St, S 238th St, S 240th St, S 242nd St, S 244th 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# Holiday Activities

8th Annual

19TH WARD CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

Movie Schedule

WED., DEC. 28, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Secret Life of Pets

2:00 p.m.

Pete's Dragon

On Wednesday, December 28th, the 19th Ward Youth Foundation will host the 8th Annual Children's Film Festival at the Beverly Arts Center. Admission is \$1 per person, per film, and includes the movie and snacks during the show. Tickets will be issued on a first come first serve basis and space is limited.

The Film Festival will feature a 10:00am showing of Secret Life of Pets and a 2:00pm showing of Pete's Dragon. I hope that you and your family can join us for a fun day at the movies! Parent chaperones are appreciated.

Please note, this year there will be no reservations, tickets can only be purchased the day of the event.

Matt O'SHEA

19TH WARD ALDERMAN

Bill Cunningham

ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR 18TH DISTRICT

Fran Hurley

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 35TH DISTRICT

19th Ward

YOUTH FOUNDATION

Winter Wonderland Comes to Mt. Greenwood Park

Alderman Matt O'Shea will host Winter Wonderland at Mount Greenwood Park (3721 W. 111th St.) on Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 2:00 - 5:00 pm. 19th Ward families are invited to enjoy a fun filled afternoon of holiday activities including ice-skating, carriage rides, holiday crafts, hot chocolate, Christmas cookies and tree lighting ceremony. Santa Claus will be available for photos so don't forget your camera!

Winter Wonderland is sponsored by State Representative Fran Hurley, Senator Bill Cunningham, Chicago Park District, Mount Greenwood Community & Business Association, Mount Greenwood Civic Association, Mount Greenwood Garden Club, Mount Greenwood Park Advisory Council, Mount Greenwood Residents Association, Mount Greenwood Lions Club, Mount Greenwood Chamber of Commerce and the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Representative Fran Hurley's Office at (773) 445-8128 or visit [repfranhurley@gmail.com](mailto:repfranhurley@gmail.com).

Matt O'SHEA

19TH WARD ALDERMAN

Bill Cunningham

ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR 18TH DISTRICT

Fran Hurley

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 35TH DISTRICT

19th Ward

YOUTH FOUNDATION

Alderman Matt O'Shea's

Holiday DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT

Open to all 19th Ward Elementary School Students

Register at [www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com) by Dec. 20th

Players will be grouped by age and randomly assigned teams.

Rosters and schedules will be e-mailed to parents on Friday, December 23rd!

Dec. 26 & 27, 2016

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

\$1 per player

For more information, please contact [tristan@the19thward.com](mailto:tristan@the19thward.com) or (773) 238-8766.

Bill Cunningham

ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR 18TH DISTRICT

Fran Hurley

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 35TH DISTRICT

19th Ward

YOUTH FOUNDATION

Skate with Santa

Sunday, December 18th

3:30 P.M. - 4:50 P.M.

Morgan Park Sports Center

11505 S. Western Ave.

'Tis the season to Skate with Santa at Morgan Park Sports Center

Bring your family and friends and skate along to your favorite holiday music provided by our live DJ

Make sure to visit the winter wonderland area and decorate your own delicious cookies

Blackhawks Ticket Raffle Benefitting Special Olympics Chicago

Skate with Santa Fees:

Adults/Teens (13 to 17)

\$5

School Age (12 & under)

\$4

Seniors (60 & up)

\$2

Skate Rental

\$3

Matt O'SHEA

19TH WARD ALDERMAN

Bill Cunningham

ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR 18TH DISTRICT

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE 35TH DISTRICT

19th Ward

YOUTH FOUNDATION

MORGAN PARK SPORTS CENTER

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

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*Holiday*



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PARTICIPATING BUSINESS FROM  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MARY GILL  
AT 773-881-0622 OR MGCBA2013@GMAIL.COM



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PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES



# BAC Holiday Spectacular!



**Beverly Arts Center**

Imagine. Discover. Create.

2407 West 111th Street

Chicago, IL 60655

773-445-3838

[beverlyartcenter.org](http://beverlyartcenter.org)



*Kick off the Holiday Season with us!*

**BACINEMA**

DECEMBER 3RD

\*Join BAPA's Cookie Crawl and wrap up the day with Elf!

1PM until 5PM

**elf**

Sat, Dec 3  
7:30pm  
\$6/\$4 Children 12 & under

**Tickets:**  
[cgmc.org/get-tickets/](http://cgmc.org/get-tickets/)

**CHICAGO**

**GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

**AT THE BAC**

**\$28**

Tuesday, 7:30pm  
December 13

From musical theatre to pop and even opera, this divalicious show is sure to rev up your holiday engines. You can expect a few traditional songs, but the program will include several original holiday songs by our favorite divas. Opera singer extraordinaire Cynthia Clarey will grace the stage to round out his holiday experience.

**BAC Professional Theatre Series**  
proudly presents

*2 Weekends!*

**THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER!**

By Barbara Robinson

**FRI, DEC 9 &  
SAT, DEC 10, 7:30PM  
SUN, DEC 11, 3:30PM**

**FRI, DEC 16 &  
SAT, DEC 17, 7:30PM  
SUN, DEC 18, 3PM**

**ADVENTURE TO THE NORTH POLE**  
**SUN, DEC 11**

Guests are invited on a magical adventure to the North Pole on Sun, Dec. 11, immediately following the show. Children are \$10/\$9 members with purchase of a show ticket. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Adult chaperones are free. Children are encouraged to wear their Christmas pajamas to the show.

Tickets \$17/\$15 BAC members/\$10 children under 10

*A holiday classic for the whole family!*





The PrivateBank  
**Beverly Hills Turkey Trot**  
5K RUN AND FAMILY WALK  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2016

The 8th Annual Beverly Hills Turkey Trot 5K Run and Family Walk will be held on **Saturday, November 26, 2016**. Same day registration begins at 7:00am and the race kicks off at 9:00am.

This event leads runners and walkers through the tree-lined streets of historic North Beverly. We are expecting a record number of participants this year with hundreds of spectators lining the race route! Proceeds will benefit the 19th Ward Youth Foundation and the John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

	<u>Pre-registration</u>	<u>Day-of registration</u>
Individual Runner/Walker	\$30	\$35
Youth Rate	\$20	\$25
Untimed Family Walk	\$60	\$75

**To register online, please visit our website at [www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com)**

CARA members receive a \$5 discount. Runners will be divided by age and sex with awards given for each age group. All participants who pre-register will receive a t-shirt and gift bag.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Tristan Angus at [Tristan.Angus@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Tristan.Angus@cityofchicago.org) or (773) 238-8766.

SPONSORED BY:



# Rain Barrel Winterization Tips

As temperatures drop, the 19th Ward Environmental Committee would like to offer a few quick and easy winterization tips for your rain barrel before snow arrives. To prevent freezing and cracking, consider taking the steps below to prolong the life of your rain barrel.

**Save Your Back.** A full, 55 gallon rain barrel can weigh upwards of 500 pounds. Drain the rain barrel completely before attempting to disconnect or move the unit.

Consider using the water from the rain barrel to saturate landscaping and lawn areas after removing all leaves and debris. Fall is a great time to add compost and mulch to plant beds, as well as aerating, seeding, de-thatching, and fertilizing lawns before watering thoroughly.

**Save Your Barrel.** Once the barrel has drained, disconnect it from the downspout. Remove all hoses and the top debris screen from the rain barrel. Store the hoses and the screen for winter. Open all spigots.

Manufacturers suggest scrubbing the barrel out before storage

to discourage mold and fungus growth. Use a weak hypochlorite solution (3/4 cup of bleach per one gallon of water) to scrub the interior of the barrel, as well as the debris screen, and dispose of this cleaning solution properly.

**Save Your Basement.** Attach a flexible, temporary, downspout extension to the gutter that was feeding the rain barrel. Make sure to direct the rainwater away from your foundation – and away from your neighbor's home as well.

**Save Your Neighbor.** To store your rain barrel outside, turn upside down to prevent water accumulation and cover with a tarp for protection from ice and snow. Since the barrel is empty, it will be relatively light and could possibly tip and roll during heavy winter storms.

To eliminate the possibility of the rain barrel ending up in your neighbor's yard, driveway, or the street, consider weighing the barrel down with a few bricks or a concrete block. If space permits, store your barrel in the garage or basement for the winter season.



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**Deadline for applications  
December 9th, 2016  
<https://apply.cps.edu>**



# BEVERLY HILLS TURKEY TROT Pancake Breakfast

**Saturday, November 26, 2016**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Christ the King Gym**

92nd & Hamilton Ave.

(Enter on Hamilton Ave. Side)

**Tickets:**

\$5 per person

\$25 per Family



Proceeds will benefit:



**19th Ward  
YOUTH FOUNDATION**



Sponsored by:



**The  
PrivateBank**



## Commissioner Charles Williams to Kickoff Career Day at Morgan Park High School

On Monday, November 21st, Charles L. Williams, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation, will visit Morgan Park High School (MPHS) as the keynote speaker for a career day assembly. A group of students will interview Commissioner Williams at an assembly for all Junior and Senior class members; immediately following the interview, Williams will take questions from individual students. William's discussion will kick off a full day of different presentations from various professionals throughout Chicagoland.

Charles Williams was appointed Commissioner in 2012. He is a 34 year veteran of the Chicago Police Department and previously worked for Merchandise Mart Properties. During his time at



the Police Department, Williams served in a number of command positions, including first Deputy Superintendent for the Bureau of Patrol. He has received a number of distinguished awards including the Carter Harrison Honorable Mention Award, the Blue Star Award, four Department Lifesaving Awards, two Unit Meritorious Awards, and 94 Honorable Mention Awards.

Career Day at Morgan Park High School is sponsored by Alderman Matt O'Shea and the 19th Ward Youth Foundation. Our goal is to expose students to a wide variety of careers as they consider their options after high school. Volunteer speakers are still needed; if you are interested in participating, please contact Tristan Angus at (773) 238-8766 or Tristan@the19thward.com.

the 19th Ward Youth Foundation. Our goal is to expose students to a wide variety of careers as they consider their options after high school. Volunteer speakers are still needed; if you are interested in participating, please contact Tristan Angus at (773) 238-8766 or Tristan@the19thward.com.

## Cheers for Charity – 12/15

Friends,

We would like to ask you to save the night of Thursday December 15, 2016 for our 8th Annual Cheers for Charity Christmas Party, which will be held at Cork and Kerry from 7:00pm-10:00pm.

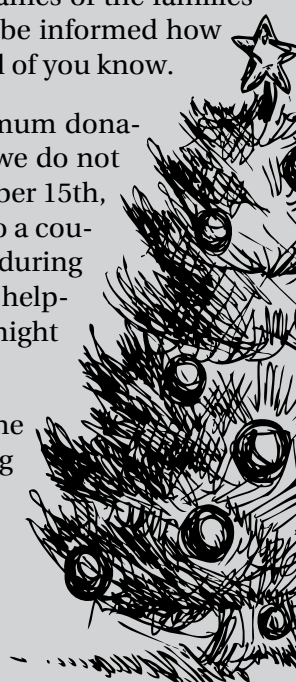
Our initial idea was to begin a holiday party so that friends and neighbors could get together to celebrate the holidays. While this is still part of our goal, we will set out to help some families and charities in our own community. Over the last seven years we have been extremely successful and we look to continue the tradition and be able to help more families from the area in need with the funds that we raise.

We have reached out to some people in the area from charitable organizations and have informed them of our desires to help a few families that may need a little support during the holiday season. We will contribute all proceeds to two local charities that will make certain families in our area are helped. The names of the families will be unknown for their privacy but we will be informed how many families have been helped and will let all of you know.

The night will feature an open bar (\$40 minimum donation) with bottled beer, wine and pop. While we do not expect to raise thousands of dollars on December 15th, hopefully we can ensure some holiday cheer to a couple of families in our area by helping them out during the Christmas season. If you are interested in helping out for the night, getting the word out, or might know of a family in need please let us know.

This Christmas Party will give these families the chance to join in the holiday season, and bring some joy to their children. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you on December 15th!

The Winters Family



## Beacon Therapeutic Diagnostic & Treatment

### 24th ANNUAL HOLIDAY SUPPER IN BEVERLY



You are invited to revel in a night of delicious food, open bar, impressive silent auction, raffles, and romantic carriage rides throughout the beautiful Beverly neighborhood.

2016 Honorees

**Brightest Light Award** - Rose Bilecki

**Opening Doors to the Future Award** - Brian O'Shea/Clune Construction

**Warmest Heart Award** - The Blue Island Healthcare Foundation

**Children's Champion Award** - Arthur J Gallagher & Co. Risk Placement Services

**Honored Guests** Charles Thomas of ABC 7 and his wife Mary Tinajero

*Beacon is a 501(c)3 organization. All proceeds benefit Beacon's programs.*

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016 \* 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM \* 10650 S. LONGWOOD DRIVE, CHICAGO**

FOR INFORMATION, SPONSORSHIP, ADS, DONATIONS AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS  
CONTACT PEGGY ROURKE: 773-881-1005 or PROURKE@BEACON-THERAPEUTIC.ORG  
WWW.BEACON-THERAPEUTIC.ORG





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*U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 2017*



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# Spectacular Holiday Arts!

BAC Students showcase Art, Dance & Music



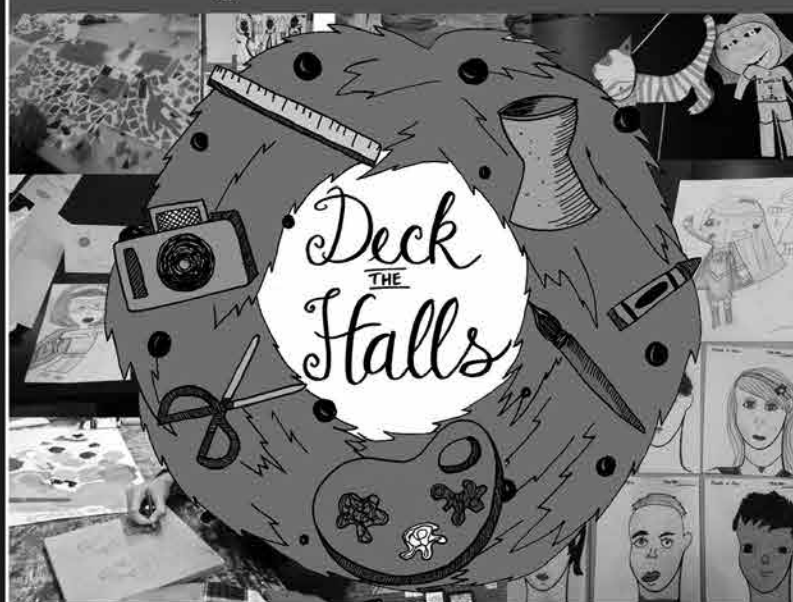
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## The BAC Visual Arts Program Presents



A showcase of Visual Arts work  
from Fall 2016 classes  
Sunday, December 4th, 6-8pm  
in the BAC Atrium

## BAC Dance Concerts

Thurs & Fri,  
Dec 1-2 at 7pm

Sat & Sun, Dec 3-4  
at 1 & 3:30pm

Tickets \$8/\$6



## BAC Music Holiday Showcase

Sat, Dec 10, 1pm

Tickets \$5

Join students from the BAC  
School of Fine Arts Music Department for  
an enjoyable afternoon of holiday favorites.



## Imagine yourself in one of our Winter Classes

Winter Session begins Jan 9

**1 Day Sale  
Nov 18**

Members SAVE 15% on all classes;  
Non Members SAVE 5%.  
(Does not include private lessons)

**3 ways to register!**  
in person, 773 445 3838  
or [beverlyartcenter.org](http://beverlyartcenter.org)



# Together We Are Stronger:

## 19th Ward Office and BAPA Partner on Community Projects

From fostering active civic associations to leading the efforts to make significant change in neighborhood parks, the 19th Ward and Beverly Area Planning Association have a history of collaborating on projects that strengthen the Beverly/Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood communities. Recent collaborations have yielded some impressive results.

### 19th Ward Retail Tour Showcases Commercial Opportunities

Commercial real estate developers got a first-hand look investment opportunities when the 19th Ward Office and Beverly Area Planning Association presented a highly successful guided tour of commercial development opportunities areas in the 19th Ward on Thursday, Oct. 27.

Ald. Matt O’Shea served as the tour guide, offering information and insights about the community. The tour was followed by a taste of 19th Ward-style hospitality at a reception featuring an exclusive food and beverage pairing with Master Chef Graham Elliot and award-winning restaurateur Neil Byers at Horse Thief Hollow, 10426 S. Western Ave.

“It was an outstanding opportunity for investors to explore, experience and enjoy the area and learn about commercial properties available for development in our

thriving community with its growing art and entertainment scene,” said BAPA Executive Director Margot Holland, who worked with the Ward office as well as Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association, Mount Greenwood Community and Business Association and 95th Street Business Association to identify properties to be showcased.

BAPA, the 19th Ward and the business associations regularly partner on programs and events designed to strengthen local businesses and recruit new investment.

### Parents as Mentors

It is no secret that when parents get involved in their child’s school good things start to happen - like support for teachers and administrators, increased pride in their school and most of all rising test scores! 19th ward Alderman Matt O’Shea, State Senator Bill Cunningham along with BAPA were able to bring a special Parent Mentor Program to Barnard in 2015 and with it success we are able to expand to Esmond Elementary in 2016!

This quality program, allows for parents to assist teachers in grades Kindergarten through 4th in the classrooms to foster more small-group learning and one on one time for students. The parents also benefit from the program where they can explore a profes-

sion in education as well as other social support services provided by BAPA.

“A second pair of hands in the classroom makes a huge difference,” Holland said. “Teachers are free to provide special attention to students who need extra help. In just a few months, we saw evidence that parent presence in the classroom translates into student success.”

The Parent Mentor program is a nationally recognized model that helps schools foster young students’ social and academic growth. It has a decades-long record of helping schools achieve higher test scores and graduation rates. By 2015, it was working in 47 neighborhood Chicago Public Schools and 23 Illinois schools. This year, the program will be expanded into Esmond School.

### Neighborhood Beautification

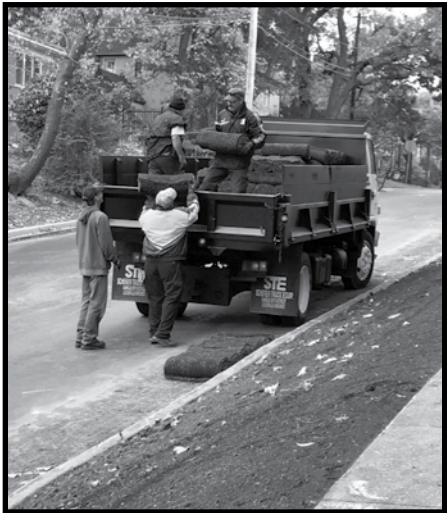
Before that first hard frost hits, take a good look around the neighborhood. Together with BAPA and volunteers we have made Beautification projects a priority! From weeding Wednesdays and tree plantings to 107th St hill. Together our 19th ward office with BAPA we are working to make our neighborhood beautiful for all to enjoy!

The most recently completed project is the new landscaping on the 107th Street hill parkway. BAPA raised funds for the project through admission donations at the Beverly Hills Cycling Classic Bikes & Brews, which is held at Beacon Therapeutic Center, located on the corner of 107th and Longwood Drive. The project required the removal of dozens of rotting railroad ties, a mass of overgrown plants and weeds, and a considerable amount of dirt in order to even out the ground and plant sod.

“The beauty of our community is one of our most important as-

sets,” said Holland. “Tackling projects that improve public spaces is a priority for BAPA, and help from Ald. O’Shea and the 19th Ward office is vital for getting these projects done.”

“This project would not have been possible without the help of the Department of Streets and Sanitation crew that cleared the railroad ties and debris so the landscapers would install the sod,” Holland said. “Special thanks goes out to Beacon for their commitment to water and maintain the parkway. It really shows that when organizations work together, we can get the job done!”



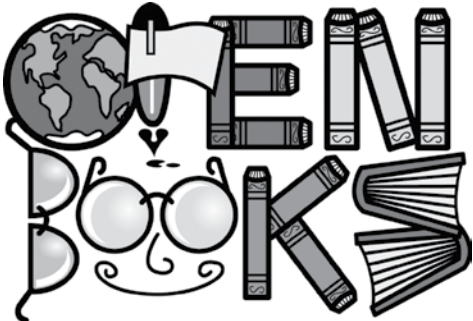
### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR Holiday Tree Lighting

On Saturday, Dec. 3, the 19th Ward, BAPA and the MPBHBA will co-host the community holiday tree lighting at King Lockhart Park, 10609 S. Western Ave. Starting at 5 p.m., families are invited to gather at the park for hot chocolate and activities that kick-off the holiday season. With the help of the Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association, the park will be decorated for all to enjoy. The tree lighting follows BAPA’s first annual Holiday Cookie Crawl, which will be held from 1 to 5 p.m., and precedes the special screening of “Elf” at the Beverly Arts Center at 7:30 p.m.



## Used Children’s Book Drive

Is your house cluttered with old books? This December, Alderman Matt O’Shea is hosting a used children’s book drive in conjunction with Open Books. Residents are encouraged to drop off any unneeded books at the 19th Ward Office, 10400 S. Western Ave., from December 1st to December 9th. Most commonly requested books include Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Captain Underpants, Judy Moody, Divergent, Hunger Games, Percy Jackson, and Maze Runner. While children’s books are in the highest demand, especially during the hol-



idays, Open Books will accept any gently used book. All books will be donated to Open Books, a nonprofit social venture that provides literacy experiences for tens of thousands of readers each year through inspiring programs and the creative capitalization of books. Open Books sells the books in their stores and online to help fund literacy programs, use and give them away in their instructional and book grant programs, and recycle any that are unusable. For more information on Open Books, please visit [www.open-books.org](http://www.open-books.org).

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

Alderman Matt O’Shea is teaming up with the Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry to ensure that all families have access to a high quality, nutritious holiday meal this November. If you would like to help a family in need, consider dropping off non-perishable food items the 19th Ward Office at 10400 S. Western Ave., Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm, or at the 19th Ward’s Mt. Greenwood Service Office, 3215 W. 111th St., Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 2:00pm. Donations are being accepted now through November 30th. In addition to canned goods and other non-perishable food

items, the Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry is also seeking monetary donations to purchase additional products whole sale. Checks can be made payable to the Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry. When making your Thanksgiving shopping trip, please consider purchasing a few extra items for a family in need. The Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry is located at 11030 S. Longwood Dr. and serves approximately 1,200 families per month; residents in the 60643 or 60655 zip codes can pick up a free bag of food once a month. For more information on the Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry, please call (773) 239-3013.







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## Voices of young carolers enhance holiday spirit at Smith Village

Throughout the year, many Smith Village residents frequently enjoy planned outings to some of Chicago's favorite attractions—the Signature Room atop the John Hancock Building, the Walnut Room now in Macy's on State Street, and the Morton Arboretum, to name a few.

But during November and December, Smith Villagers also like to stay put so they can enjoy a special form of entertainment that resonates throughout the place they call home—singing and caroling performed by children and young adults from neighborhood schools, youth groups, colleges and universities.

Over the years, these young performers have hailed from: St. Cajetan School, Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, Morgan Park Academy, Girl and Boy Scout troops, Just For Kids child care, Evergreen Park High School, Moraine Valley Community College and University of St. Francis in Joliet.

"During the holidays, we definitely enjoy a jam-packed calendar of entertainment," said Meghan Maple, Smith Village director of life enrichment. "The residents love hearing the kids and young adults perform. It's their favorite part of the holidays. When students and groups perform, our Community Hall is always full."

School and organization groups

seeking appreciative, engaged audiences and wanting to schedule a time to perform at Smith Village should call Maple at 773-474-7300 before Tuesday, Nov. 15.

"Our practice of inviting school and youth groups to perform during the holidays is a tradition," said Marti Jatis, Smith Village executive director. "For residents, these performances provide a sense of connection to young people and to our community. Some who perform are grandchildren and great-grandchildren of our residents. For residents whose families live far away, however, there's a strong sense of appreciation and connection."

Evelyn Solon, a retired teacher, moved to Smith Village in 2012 from West 77th Street in Chicago, to be near her daughter who lives in Beverly and belongs to St. Cajetan. Over the years, she has enjoyed seeing students from St. Cajetan perform Christmas programs. "It's been nice to hear the kids singing and paying such close attention—not that they wouldn't normally—but it's good seeing them make such an effort."

And residents aren't the only ones to benefit. "The children love bringing Christmas cheer to Smith," said Deborah Breakey, religious education program coordinator at St. Cajetan. "Our students truly connect with the residents.



*Students from St. Cajetan School perform for Smith Village residents during a previous holiday season. Photo supplied by St. Cajetan School*

Our holiday visit to Smith Village is one of the highlights of their school year."

Mother McAuley students have performed at Smith Village for at least five years, according to Carrie Alifantis, performing arts faculty member. "On a personal level, I always have them go around and talk to the residents to learn about their lives and what it means to be accessible, empathetic and concerned for all members of their community."

This year, second and third graders in the St. Cajetan religious education program will combine

"The Story of Christmas" with 11 traditional Christmas songs and invite the residents to sing along with guitar accompaniment, Breakey said.

"You might say we become a hub of holiday excitement and intergenerational activity," said Smith's Jatis. "Performances by schools and other groups make the holidays very special not only here at Smith Village but also for students attending 19th Ward schools and churches. We're proof that Christmas isn't just for children!"

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