

Mayor Emanuel and Alderman O'Shea Break Ground on Community Investments Across the South West Side

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and 19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea today joined the Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Schools and the Public Building Commission on the southwest side to break ground on the Beverly Park Playground, and annexes at Esmond Elementary School and Mt. Greenwood Elementary School.

"This series of investments on the southwest side will create the state-of-the-art facilities and extra space necessary to support the future of our children and the future of our city," said Mayor Emanuel. "Together with Alderman O'Shea, we are proud to make smart, critical investments that help both students and residents to strengthen the social fabric of this community."

"Ongoing investments in our parks and our schools are a sign of what's to come in Beverly, Morgan Park and Mt. Greenwood," said Alderman Matt O'Shea, 19th Ward. "These projects will not only benefit our children, they will become community staples that benefit our residents for generations to come."

The Beverly Park Playground will undergo significant renovations. Once construction is complete, the playground will house new play equipment for children ages 2 – 12, including a swing set, net climbers and a spinning play feature. Improvements include new artificial turf surfacing, a new asphalt ramp leading into the playground, new park signage

and modifications to the existing timber walls. The adjacent spray pool on the northwest corner of the park will remain.

"Neighborhood playgrounds are valuable resources that strengthen our communities and enrich the lives of every individual that visits our parks," said Chicago Park District Superintendent & CEO Michael P. Kelly. "Today, we are not only investing in these resources, but also in our future generations."

The state-of-the-art improvements made to the playground will align with ADA accessibility guidelines. The project is expected to be complete by September 2018.

Two annexes at Esmond Elementary School and Mt. Greenwood Elementary School will be built in the Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood neighborhoods. Both annexes are expected to be complete by January 2019.

"The annexes at Esmond and Mount Greenwood Elementary will create extra space and state-of-the-art learning facilities necessary for our students to learn, grow, and thrive," said CPS CEO Dr. Janice K. Jackson. "These investments will provide engaging learning opportunities for generations to come."

The two-story 20,000 square foot annex at Esmond Elementary



New Annex Building at Esmond Elementary School



New Annex Building at Mount Greenwood Elementary School

School in Morgan Park will replace a deteriorating stand-alone modular building. The annex will include a classroom, computer lab, science lab, art room with storage, library, dining room, hybrid kitchen and dining area, administrative office, bathrooms, building storage, an elevator and building support space. The project will also include a renovated parking lot, load area, refuse enclosure, storm water management infrastructure, a new outdoor playground, community garden, and a turf field. Renovations to the existing building include a new roof and repairs to the exterior envelope.

The two-story 27,000 square foot annex at Mt. Greenwood Elementary School in Mount Greenwood will include thirteen standard classrooms, a science lab, offices, storage and utility rooms, bathrooms and an elevator. Work within the school building will include converting two existing classrooms for expanded lunchroom capacity. The project will also include a new outdoor playground, a new parking lot and storm water management infrastructure.

"Nothing gives me greater joy to know that we are partnering with CPS to develop new annexes that will provide students with the resources necessary for a 21st century education," said Carina E. Sanchez, Executive Director of the Public Building Commission of Chicago. "The new annexes

support the Mayor's vision of providing high quality public education for every child, in every neighborhood, to ensure that they all have access to an education that will aid in their success - whether it is in their academic, professional, or civic life."

These investments build on several upcoming and completed projects on the southwest side since 2011. Opened in 2015, the 64,000 square foot Morgan Park Sports Center features a state of the art indoor ice rink facility and a world-class gymnastics center with concession areas, meeting and party rooms, viewing areas, offices, restrooms and team locker rooms. Mt. Greenwood Park last year was updated with a new walking path and outdoor exercise equipment. Upcoming projects include the addition of a new water feature at Graver Park.

Mayor Emanuel and CPS have addressed overcrowding at over 35 local schools in recent years, including Skinner West, Zapata, Dore, Dawes, South Loop, Prussing, Addams, Little Village, Bridge, Onahan, Ebinger, Pasteur, Canty, Byrne, Edwards, Dore, Garvey, Hale, Peck, Stevenson, Dirksen, Sauganash, and many more. The Mayor remains committed to working with communities to find innovative ways to relieve overcrowding.

Under Mayor Emanuel's leadership, there have been investments in neighborhoods across the city including \$3.2 billion in school infrastructure and \$1 billion in parks since 2011. Investments with CPS has included new schools and annexes, playgrounds and air conditioning, improvements and access to technology, new computers and expanded bandwidth, expanded academic programs and core facilities investments.



Beverly Park playground

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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

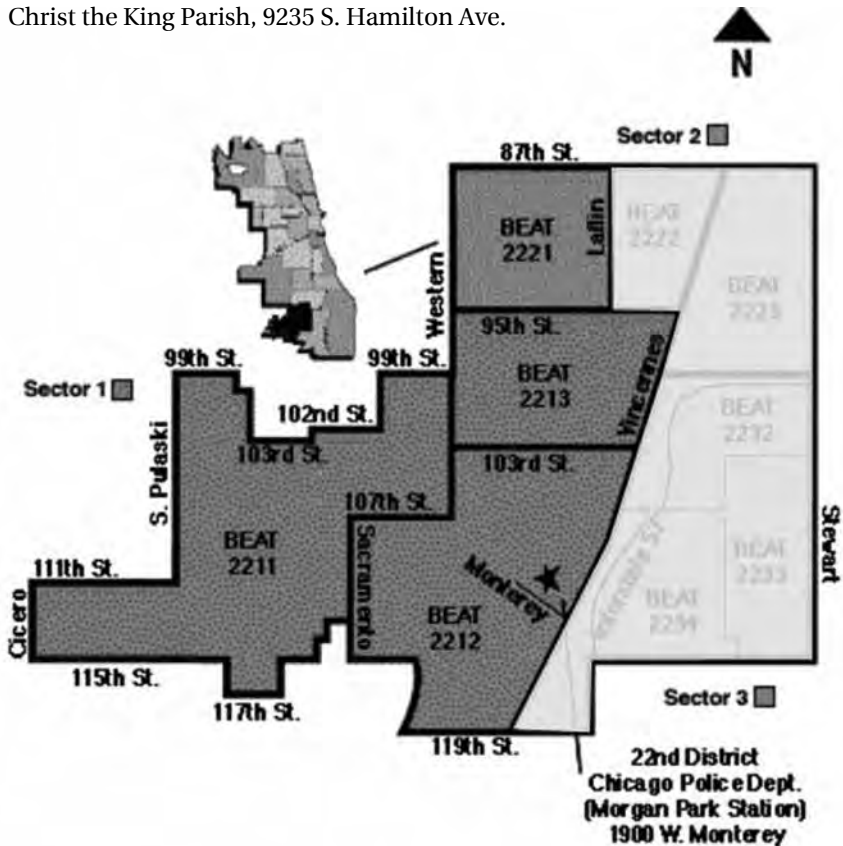
Ridge Park, 9625 S. Longwood Dr.

BEAT 2221

First Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm

March, April, May, June, August, September, October, November

Christ the King Parish, 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

Mount Greenwood Service Office

3207 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

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CHICAGO CITY VEHICLE STICKERS AVAILABLE HERE!

Alderman Matt O'Shea

has partnered with **Chicago Clerk Anna M. Valencia** to host a vehicle sticker sale in your neighborhood!

Tuesday, May 22

12:00 - 4:00PM

Ridge Park

9625 S. Longwood Dr.

Wednesday, June 20

12:00 - 4:00PM

Mt. Greenwood Office

3207 W. 111th St.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

👉 You **MUST** bring your Chicago City Vehicle Sticker Courtesy Reminder or state vehicle registration card with vehicle plate, make, model, and VIN (Vehicle Identification Number).

👉 **NO CASH** will be accepted at ward offices. **CREDIT CARD, MONEY ORDER AND CHECK ARE THE ONLY FORMS OF PAYMENT ACCEPTED** for the purchase of Chicago City Vehicle Stickers at ward offices.

👉 You can buy your vehicle sticker on-line via **EZ>BUY AT CHICITYCLERK.COM**



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Get ready to march in the Memorial Day Parade May 28

Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA) will present the annual Beverly/Morgan Park/Mount Greenwood Memorial Day Parade on Mon., May 28. The parade will step off at about 10 a.m. from 110th Place and Longwood Drive, following the Ridge Run 5K, and march north to Ridge Park, 97th and Longwood Drive.

This year's parade Grand Marshals are members of the American Gold Star Mothers, a national group mothers whose children lost their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Their presence in the parade is a reminder that Memorial Day is about honoring those killed while fighting for our country. All area Gold Star Mothers are welcome to help lead the parade.

Prior to the parade, the Gold Star Mothers will be honored at the Memorial Day Ceremony at Ridge Park. The ceremony begins at 9 a.m., and features taps, a color guard, the laying of the wreath and a short program.

The Gold Star Mothers organization was founded in 1928 by a group of 25 mothers whose children were killed in military service in World War I. The group is nondenominational, non-profit and politically unaffiliated. Area groups, families, organizations and businesses are encouraged to march behind the Grand Marshals.

The Road Home Program at Rush University Medical Center returns as Memorial Day Parade Presenting Sponsor. The Road Home Program provides individualized care to veterans and their families to help heal the "invisible wounds of war." The program is committed to helping all veterans returning home to address service and combat-related health issues as well as familial challenges.

The Parade will feature the Jesse White Tumbles as well as military vehicles, a color guard, scout troops, historical figures, floats, vehicles, flags and music. The parade is one of Chicago's oldest community



Gold Star Mothers gathered recently at the decommissioning of a WWI memorial in the Dan Ryan Woods. American Gold Star Mothers will be the Grand Marshall of the 2018 Memorial Day Parade down historic Longwood Drive.

parades, drawing attendance from local organizations, schools and churches as well as representatives of the U.S. military.

Parade applications can be found at www.bapa.org. Application materials and suggested donations must be

sent to BAPA, 1987 W. 111th St., Chicago, IL 60643. The deadline is May 18.

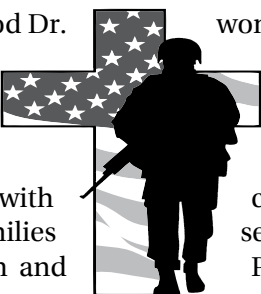
For more information contact the Beverly Area Planning Association 773-233-3100 or www.bapa.org.

Mass Planned to Honor Veteran's and Active Servicemen

On Sunday, May 27th, the 19th Ward Youth Foundation will host our annual Memorial Day Mass in honor of the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom. The outdoor mass will begin at 4:00pm on the lawn of the Saint Barnabas

Convent, 10161 S. Longwood Dr. Limited seating will be provided; guests are encouraged to bring chairs.

Rev. Jim Donovan will celebrate the mass with area veterans and the families of local active service men and



women playing roles. A collection will be taken for Postage for Parcels, a Mount Greenwood organization that provides care packages to troops serving overseas.

Please join us in honoring

those who have died serving our country and remember the true purpose of Memorial Day. Volunteers are needed to help setup chairs that day. For more information, please contact the 19th Ward at mattoshea@the19thward.com.

O'Shea Invites Residents to Help-A-Hero

This June, Alderman Matt O'Shea, Jewel-Osco, and the Chicago Park District will host the second annual Operation Help-A-Hero, a household item collection drive supporting veterans transitioning out of homelessness. On any given night, there are over 600 homeless veterans living on the streets of Chicago. While we have helped over 4,000 formerly homeless veterans find permanent housing, many still lack the most basic household items needed to live independently.

Operation Help-A-Hero asks all

Chicagoans to consider purchasing one or more of these items to donate to a veteran in need. Donations will be accepted at any Jewel-Osco store in the City, as well as all local Aldermanic offices and select Chicago Park District locations during the month of June. All items collected will be delivered to the United States' Veteran's Affairs Office and distributed to qualifying veterans.

Local drop off locations include the Jewel-Osco store at 3128 W. 103rd

Street, Alderman O'Shea's office at 10400 S. Western Avenue, Monday - Friday from 9:00am - 5:00pm, and Mount Greenwood Park, 3721 W. 111th Street, Monday - Friday from 10:00am - 10:00pm, Saturday from 9:00am - 2:00pm, and Sunday from 9:00am - 5:00pm. Despite recent progress on this issue, there are currently hundreds of homeless veterans who live either unsheltered or

in shelters throughout the City. "It is our duty as citizens to take care of those who have served and protected our country by getting our veterans back on their feet and successful in private life. It is my hope through this program we will collect

thousands of donations that can help the veterans who have sacrificed so much for our freedom," said Matthew J. O'Shea, 19th Ward Alderman.

Please note, Operation Help-A-Hero is seeking new, store bought items only. A full list of requested

products is below. PERSONAL HYGIENE: bath soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, combs, hair brushes, nail clippers, toothpaste, toothbrushes; KITCHEN & CLEANING ITEMS: kitchen trash cans (plastic), Windex, Pine Sol, dishwashing liquid, dishcloths, sponges, mops, buckets, brooms, dustpans, paper towels; BATHROOM & MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: shower curtains, toilet paper (4 or 6 pack), plungers, toilet brushes, toilet bowl cleaner, bath towels (2), wash cloths, smoke detectors w/ batteries, flashlights w/ batteries, garbage bags, laundry baskets, hampers, and laundry detergent.

Operation Help-A-Hero is a 501 (c) (3) public charity dedicated to the well-being and care of our American military members. Their programs support military units and families as they prepare for separation, while they endure the challenges of deployment, and as they transition back to the United States. Every cent contributed to Operation Help-A-Hero is used to serve our military community, and every project is based on real needs. For a complete list of drop off locations throughout the City, please visit www.cityofchicago.org/helpahero.



Alderman O'Shea shows off one of the many car loads that were delivered to Jesse Brown VA to help homeless Veterans as they transition into their permanent homes.

Local Businesses Paint the Town Blue in Support of Chicago Police

A number of businesses in the 19th Ward will participate in the upcoming Chicago Police Memorial Foundation campaign to “Paint the Town Blue”, by selling blue and gold paper stars to customers at their locations, during National Police Week from Thursday, May 10th through Thursday, May 17th, with all proceeds to benefit the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation.

Six business locations in the 19th Ward will have stars available for purchase during National Police Week, they include:

Barraco’s Italian Restaurant, 3047 W. 111th Street

Joseph’s Restaurant, 3123 W. 111th Street
La Fiesta Restaurant, 3333 W. 111th Street

Original Pancake House, 10437 S. Western Avenue

Original Rainbow Cone, 9233 S. Western Avenue

Treadfit (Beverly), 10458 S. Western Avenue

Blue stars will be sold for \$5 each and gold for \$25, with all proceeds going to CPMF, whose mission is to raise funds for the families of fallen and injured Chicago Police Officers.

On Thursday, May 10th, the campaign will officially kick-off in the 19th Ward with a special morning breakfast open to police men and women in the 22nd District. The breakfast will begin with a gathering of officers at the United States flag outside the restaurant, with a special prayer led by Father Thomas Hurley, pastor at Old St. Patrick’s Church in Chicago. Fr. Hurley was born and raised in the Beverly community, his brother and nephew are police officers in the 22nd district. After the prayer, officers will be welcomed for a complimentary breakfast with 19th Ward Alderman Matt O’Shea and Original Pancake House – Beverly owners, Julie and Dick Harrigan, serving attendees.

“Living and doing business in Beverly for 53 years has afforded us the opportunity to serve the community in so many different ways, but one of the most important aspects of owning a business here is making sure our staff and guests always feel safe,” said Julie Harrigan. “The Chicago Police Department has maintained a peaceful presence throughout the 19th Ward and we have a great sense of security knowing we can rely on them. Because we have many friends, family and guests that are members of the CPD, we decided a few years ago it would be nice to honor them and all those that have fallen by erecting a flagpole in front of the restaurant on Western Avenue. Not long after that, Alderman O’Shea asked us if we’d be interested in teaming up with him to raise funds for the CPMF by having a pancake breakfast. We agreed and the outcome has been amazing. Being able to contribute to such an important cause is what makes our existence worthwhile! We are honored to be involved, happy that the funds put vests on many officers and provide much needed relief to families suffering from loss.”

For more information on the 19th Ward, please visit www.the19thward.com. For more information about Paint the Town Blue, please visit CPDmemorial.org.



Local business owners, Jenny Harkins (Tread Fit), Debbie Anderson (Joseph’s Restaurant), Danielle Barraco (Barraco’s), Lynn Sapp (Rainbow Cone), Dick Harrigan and Julie Harrigan Wagner (Original Pancake House) will participate in Paint the Town Blue May 10-17, 2018

Alderman O’Shea to Help Paint the Town Blue

Please join Alderman Matt O’Shea at five Beverly/Mt. Greenwood business who are taking part in the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation’s “Paint the Town Blue” initiative, May 10 – 17, 2018.

Thursday, May 10:

The Original Pancake House-Beverly will kick-off the Paint the Town Blue activities in the neighborhood by hosting a special police blessing and breakfast at 9 am, led by Father Thomas J. Hurley, pastor, Old St. Patrick’s Church. Ald. O’Shea will help to serve a complimentary breakfast to police officers from the Chicago Police Department’s 22nd district, immediately following. Original Pancake House-Beverly is located at 10437 S. Western Ave.

Saturday, May 12:

Ald. O’Shea will join Father Dan Brandt, Chicago Police Department Chaplain, Phil Cline, Executive Director, CPMF, and Nick Barraco as a celebrity bartender at Barraco’s – Mt. Greenwood from 7 pm – 9 pm. Barraco’s is located at 3047 W. 111th St.

Tuesday, May 15:

Anne Marie Riordan, principal, Christ the King School, and Ald. O’Shea will scoop up everyone’s favorite ice cream at Original Rainbow Cone from 4 pm – 6 pm. Original Rainbow Cone is located at 9233 S. Western Ave.

Wednesday, May 16:

Joseph’s Restaurant in Mt. Greenwood will host Kate Reidy, principal of Mt. Greenwood School, and Ald. O’Shea as their celebrity bartenders from 6 pm – 8 pm. Joseph’s Restaurant is located at 3123 W. 111th St.

Friday, May 18:

Police men and women are invited for a workout like no other as they break a sweat with Ald. O’Shea at a special complimentary class open to Chicago police officers at Treadfit-Beverly. Treadfit Beverly is located at 10458 S. Western.

Paint the Town
BLUE

95th Street Farmers Market Returns for 2018

The 95th Street Farmers Market opens for the season on Sunday, May 6th from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Operating rain or shine, the market takes place every Sunday through October 28, 2018, in the city owned parking lot at 95th and Longwood Drive (1835 W. 95th Street). Beverly Bank & Trust remains the premier sponsor for the market, sponsoring live entertainment each week from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm including local favorites like The Beverly All Stars, Joel Barr, Dave Waterman, Mark Taylor, Bridget Cavanaugh and more!

Southtown Health Foods sponsors children's activities including Erin's Farm, an appearance from Southpaw, craft activities and much more! Face painting is offered every other week from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

beginning on May 6th, sponsored by the 19th Ward Youth Foundation, Senator Bill Cunningham and State Representative Fran Hurley.

The market would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors like the 95th Street Business Association, Pacor Mortgage Corporation, Beverly Area Planning Association and Alderman Matt O'Shea. We are especially grateful to BAPA for their assistance in spreading the word about the market and to Alderman O'Shea for helping us keep the market lot in the best shape possible. We are also grateful to the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences and their principal, Bill Hook, for assistance with building new barricades for our use at the market.

We are very excited to wel-



Local residents enjoy the over 25 vendors that come each week to the parking lot at 95th/Longwood.

come Sitka Salmon Shares, Homebody Basics, and John Bailey Honey as new vendors at our market this year. We are also thrilled to announce that Don Blankenship of Blankenship Farms will be back with us after missing part of the season last year due to health issues.

Please be sure to "like" the 95th Street Farmers Market Facebook page to stay posted on our schedule for each week at the market. We are especially proud to offer our Community Tent which is open to 19th Ward organizations. During the month of May we will host Clissold

School, Live Like John, the children's librarian from the Beverly Branch Library, and representatives from the Gold Star Mothers. They are excited to share more information with you about the important work they are doing.

For more information about our market please message us on our 95th Street Farmers Market page or contact Erin Ross at erin@95thstreetba.org. See you at the market!



19th WARD TOWN HALL MEETING

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 9, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

**22ND DISTRICT CHICAGO
POLICE STATION
1900 W. MONTEREY AVE.**

Please join us for a discussion of community events. Representatives from various government agencies will also be present to address any concerns or questions you may have.

Sponsored by:

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

**State Representative
JUSTIN SLAUGHTER**



BAPA
Beverly Area
Planning Association

**CIVIC ASSOCIATION
OF MORGAN PARK**

**OLD MORGAN PARK
CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Join the Battle for Beau Blood Drive

On Saturday, June 9th, the 19th Ward is hosting the "Battle for Beau" blood drive in honor of Beau Dowling at Saint John Fisher School - Kane Hall (10200 S. Washtenaw Ave.), from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Beau Dowling, the three year old youngest of seven children, is currently battling neuroblastoma cancer. Please join the entire 19th Ward community in showing support for our buddy Beau by donating blood or signing up for the bone marrow registry.

To avoid significant delays, appointments are strongly encouraged and can be made by calling (877) 543-3768 or visit www.the19thward.com and search using group code 869A. Blood donors must be at least 18 years of age (16 or 17 years old with signed parental consent form), weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in generally good physical health. Be sure to eat a

healthy meal (low-fat and iron rich foods) at least two hours before donating blood and drink plenty of non-caffeinated beverages in the days leading up to your donations.

Do not smoke for at least one hour before donating and do not chew gum, mints, or candy immediately before or during your appointment. Also, avoid exercise or strenuous activity before and

immediately after donating. On the day of your donation, please be sure to bring a valid driver's license, passport, state ID or birth certificate with accompanying photo ID. A student or employee ID with full name and photo are also accepted. You will also need a list of medications you are taking and list of places visited outside of the United States in

the past three years. Sign up today at www.the19thward.com.



Beau Dowling

Bike Sharing Pilot Comes to the 19th Ward

Alderman Matt O'Shea and the City of Chicago are excited to announce a dockless bike sharing pilot program to service several southwest side communities including Beverly, Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood. The pilot program will operate from May 1, 2018 through November 1, 2018 and will help the Chicago Department of Transportation better develop a city-wide policy on this growing industry. Several vendors have already expressed a strong interest in participating.

Under the pilot, vendors are allowed to distribute a maximum of 250 bikes throughout the program boundaries. Starting July 1, 2018, all bikes must include "lock to" technology, which requires the bike to be attached to a fixed object at the end of each rental trip. Vendors are



required to make bikes available for rent 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and ensure that all bikes include clearly readable contact information including a toll free telephone number with round the clock customer service and an email address. Vendors are also responsible for ensuring the bicycles are maintained and meet safety standards.

Bike sharing has been noticeably absent in our community since the launch of Divvy in 2013. The Beverly Area Planning Association spearheaded a petition drive in support of bike sharing coming to the neighborhood with tremendous community support. To receive updates on the bike sharing pilot, please sign up for the 19th Ward's email blast system at www.the19thward.com.

Coffee & Conversation on June 26th

On Tuesday, June 26, 2018, the Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA), Beverly Ridge Homeowners Association (BRHA) and 19th Ward will host a "Coffee & Conversation" at the Original Pancake House, 10437 S. Western Ave. at 7:00pm. Senator Bill Cunningham, Representative Fran Hurley, Alderman Matt O'Shea and members of the BRHA will be present for a casual conversation about issues impacting our community. Events like these are a great way to learn more about what is happening in the area and to meet some of your neighbors.

Coffee & Conversation is free and open to the public. Coffee will be provided. For more information please contact Tristan Angus at Tristan@the19thward.com.



Restore the Canopy

This summer, Alderman Matt O'Shea and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District are providing free oak tree saplings to Chicagoans. Trees can be ordered online at www.the19thward.com, and will be available for pickup on Sunday, June 3, 2018 from 9:30am - 1:00pm at the 95th Street Farmers Market (95th & Longwood Dr.). Instructions to aid in planting and caring for the trees will be provided at pickup.



Trees provide a beautiful green canopy for urban communities that enhance property values, reduce utility bills, and are a powerful and effective form of green infrastructure. A medium size oak tree can help prevent flooding by absorbing 2,800 gallons of rainfall per year. Chicago's tree population has been decimated by emerald ash borer infestations and extreme weather. Help restore that canopy by ordering your free oak sapling today!

Staying healthy, staying involved



Mercy Circle resident Sister Ellen Marie Ryan, RSM with rehab manager Joanna Ruzich

Thanks to Mercy Circle's short-term rehab, I'm already back in step as a volunteer at Mother McAuley High School, says Sister Ellen Marie Ryan, RSM. I taught music at McAuley for more than 30 years. Now helping out there is a great encore.

- Sister Ellen Marie Ryan, RSM

Call 773-253-3600 to learn about our next Open House or to schedule a private tour.

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Parjana Pilot Project Update

In May 2017, the Parjana Distribution Company installed its Energy-passive Groundwater Recharge Product (EGRP) at Mount Greenwood Park. This pilot study, which is the result of a partnership between Alderman Matt O'Shea, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), and the Chicago Park District, is intended to evaluate technology that addresses drainage issues through improved infiltration of storm water runoff. Since the installation, MWRD and the Park District have been monitoring the effectiveness of the EGRP system, and while this effort is still ongoing, the preliminary results appear to be positive.

Specifically, from initial soil moisture measurements the top 8 inches of soil appears 10 to 12 percent drier in the fields where the EGRP devices were installed than the control fields after storm events. MWRD is analyzing all data collected to date and will continue to monitor the fields to assess long-term performance of this experimental system. Further results from the ongoing data collection and analysis will be summarized and provided as soon as it's available. Chicago Park District field staff have also reiterated that they noticed less standing water after rains and reported that fewer games were cancelled in 2017 than in past years.

Smart Lighting Comes to the 19th Ward

Residents are you ready to "See Chicago in a Whole New Light! The City of Chicago Smart Lighting Program is installing better quality, more reliable LED light fixtures on streets, alleys and viaducts to increase safety, reduce energy costs and improve the environment. The city-wide lighting initiative will replace over 270,000 existing outdated High Pressure Sodium (HPS) light fixtures with new energy efficient LED lights and create a modern lighting management system to streamline maintenance and repairs over the course of four years. This program will also in-

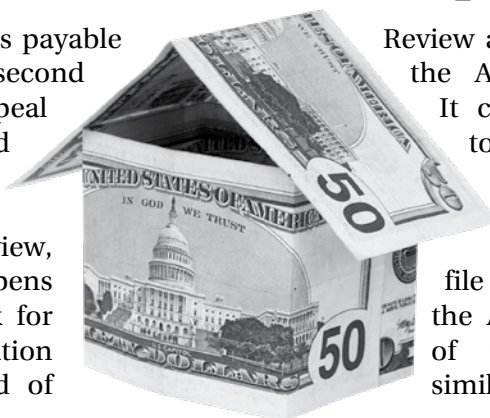
clude a limited amount of pole replacement and wiring repairs to stabilize the lighting. Please visit chicagosmartlighting.org to view the updated installation map and additional program information that is updated weekly."

The contractor will be installing along 19th Ward arterial locations within 4-6 weeks. Please encourage your residents to register their email address for the weekly updates at chicagosmartlighting.org. The website includes an interactive two week look ahead that gives your residents a point of reference for installation locations.

Cook County Assessor Property Tax Appeal

2018 is a triennial assessment year, make sure to file an appeal through the Cook County Assessor. Property tax appeal process for Lake Township, which includes the 19th Ward, is tentatively scheduled to open July 27, 2018. Yearly assessment notices will be mailed notifying residents of the 30 day window to file an appeal. This will be the first opportunity to

appeal 2018 taxes payable in 2019. The second option to appeal is administered through the Cook County Board of Review, which typically opens in the fall. Look for more information about the Board of



Review appeal process in the August Quarterly. It can be beneficial to file appeals with both agencies. Common reasons to file an appeal with the Assessor are lack of uniformity with similar properties

within the same neighborhood code, overvaluation based on recent sales and significant property description errors. This appeal process is for 2018 property taxes which are due in 2019. Appeals can be made in person at any Cook County Assessor office, online at www.cookcountyassessor.com or appeal forms are available at both 19th Ward offices.



Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

Spring
**plant
SALE**



Come stop by the greenhouse and purchase a variety of annuals, herbs, vegetables and foliage plants. You won't regret it.

DATES:

May 4th & 5th

May 11th & 12th

TIMES:

1:00 PM - 3:00 pm Friday

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See Ms. Kee or Hort students for more information on the plant sale



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Exhibit: May 20 – July 1

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Programs at the Beverly Arts Center are made possible, in part, by the generosity of
The A. Montgomery Ward Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee and Little Company of Mary Hospital Foundation.

Improvements Coming to 19th Ward Parks

In 2018, the Chicago Park District will be investing over \$1.3 million for local park improvements. Projects include new playgrounds at Munroe and Beverly Parks, a new water feature at Graver Park, and window replacement at Ridge Park. Well maintained, high quality parks are key to our quality of life and property values.

Beverly Park - Maeve McNicholas Playlot

Construction is currently underway at a new Maeve McNicholas Playground at Beverly Park. This work is expected to be complete this summer before the start of day camp. The total budget for this improvement is \$450,000.

Munroe Park Playground

Demolition is expected to begin shortly on this project, which will consolidate two play areas into one. The new playground will include poured in place soft surface, similar to what is seen at Mount Greenwood Park. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in July and continue into October. The total budget for this improvement is \$500,000.

Graver Park Water Feature

Crews are currently on site at Graver Park replacing the water feature. Work is expected to be completed in time for the start of day camp. The total budget for this improvement is \$140,000.



Beverly Park rendering



Munroe Park playground rendering



Graver Park water feature rendering

Art Fair & Festival Debuts at Ridge Park this Summer

The 1st annual Ridge Park Art Fair & Festival will take place Sat., June 23, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Ridge Park Cultural Center, 9625 S. Longwood Dr. The event is being planned by the Ridge Park Advisory Council (RPAC) and John H. Vanderpoel Art Association along with the Chicago Park District, and will highlight Beverly/Morgan Park as a cultural hub.

The Ridge Park Art Fair & Festival will feature more than 40 Chicago area artists working across a wide variety of media, selling original paintings, sculptures, textiles, photographs, jewelry, art glass, leatherwork and more. Registration is now closed to artists.


As a Chicago Park District cultural center, Ridge Park offers rich and dynamic programming that will be highlighted throughout the art fair and festival. The John H. Vanderpoel Museum is located in the fieldhouse through the Chicago Park District's Arts Partners

in Residency Program, which unites artists and communities in Chicago's parks. The Museum hosts a world-class collection of Impressionist paintings and other late 19th and early 20th century paintings and works on paper. Ridge Park Art Fair attendees will have the opportunity to take guided tours of the Vanderpoel Museum, as well as of the park facilities and ceramics studio.

Rounding out the day will be events for patrons of all ages: food trucks, a bouncy castle, local bands, the opportunity to connect with Beverly/Morgan Park institutions and services.

Information about the Ridge Park Art Fair & Festival is available at www.ridgeparkartfair.org. Donations and sponsorships are still available. For more information, contact Irene Testa, irene@vanderpoelartmuseum.org, or Mary Jo Viero, mjviero@yahoo.com.





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It's time to gear up for the 41st Annual Ridge Run May 28

Get ready to compete in Beverly Area Planning Association's 41st Annual Ridge Run and annual Beverly/Morgan Park/Mount Greenwood Memorial Day Parade through the historic Beverly/Morgan Park neighborhood on Memorial Day, Mon., May 28. Runners have the option of participating in the 10K run, 5K run or untimed walk, Ridge Run Challenge 5K and 10K, or the untimed Youth Mile. Races start and finish at Ridge Park, 9625 S. Longwood Dr., Chicago.

Little Company of Mary Hospital (LCMH), Evergreen Park, returns as Ridge Run Presenting Sponsor. Dr. Ginny Hendricks will serve as the Race Doctor assisted at the LCMH First Aid Station by a team of nurses and volunteers. Little Company of Mary Hospital has been dedicated to patients since the 1930s and provides state-of-the-art medical technologies and services at the hospital and several satellite centers. Learn more at www.lcmh.org.

On race day, spectators are encouraged to line the race route to cheer on participants as they run through the center of the

residential Ridge Historic District. Race start times are: 10K, 8 a.m.; Youth Mile, 8:10 a.m.; and 5K, 9:30 a.m. Participants will receive T-shirts, finisher medals and goody bags.

The Memorial Day ceremony honoring the American Gold Star Mothers, Grand Marshals of the Beverly/Morgan Park/Mount Greenwood Memorial Day Parade, will begin at 9 a.m. at the park. The parade will step off from 110th and Longwood Drive at approximately 10 a.m., following the 5K race. The Road Home Program at Rush University Medical Center is presenting sponsor of the parade.

Upon completion of the Ridge Run, participants and spectators alike can enjoy the post-race festival in Ridge Park, which includes a Kids' Zone with jump house and petting zoo, team town, runner awards and more. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Runners must register by May 3 to guarantee receiving a Ridge Run t-shirt. Online registration continues through May 23, 8 a.m. Advance registration and packet pick-up will be held May 24. 25

and 26 at Running Excels, 10328 S. Western, Chicago, and May 27 at Ridge Park. Race-day registration is an extra \$5 and opens at 6:30 a.m. at the Ridge Park Field House. Details regarding advance registration and packet pickup can be found at bapa.org/events.

In conjunction with the Ridge Run, donations from the races will be made to Special Olympics Chicago/Mount Greenwood Park and the restoration of the Ridge Park Field House.

Ridge Run sponsors help to ensure the success of the event. Thank you to Little Company of Mary Hospital, Mike Haggerty Buick GMC Volkswagen of Oak

Lawn, Beverly Bank, Road Home Program, Southtown Health Foods, CIBC, County Fair, 19th Ward Youth Foundation, Marquette Bank, State Rep. Fran Hurley, State Sen. Bill Cunningham, Chicago Park District, McCready Law, 670 Score Sports Radio, State Farm Agent John Harrell, TreadFit Beverly, Calabria Imports, Running Excel, The Beverly Review, 100.3SheChicago, Trace Ambulance, Marathon Sportswear, Beverly Records, Cork & Kerry and Original Rainbow Cone.

For more information contact the Beverly Area Planning Association, 773-233-3100 or www.bapa.org.



Chicago Woman to Join Thousands this Mother's Day in the Fight Against Breast Cancer After Undergoing Cancer Treatment at Little Company of Mary Hospital

Michelle Rush, 39, was born and raised in Chicago and grew up with in a large, close-knit family with three siblings. Michelle has always been an outgoing, active woman with a sparkling personality who loves to travel, eat and shop. In early 2017, Michelle's world shook when she received news that would forever change her life.

On February 1, 2017, at only 38 years old, Michelle discovered a small lump during a routine self-breast exam and immediately sought attention at an urgent care center. X-rays were taken and the results showed a mass.

Michelle made an appointment with Jilma Patrick, M.D., fellowship-trained breast surgeon at Little Company of Mary Hospital (LCMH). Dr. Patrick confirmed her worst fear that she indeed was diagnosed with breast cancer. A team of oncology experts at LCMH, including Simona Chivu, M.D., hematologist/oncologist, and Julia Choo, M.D., radiation oncologist, immediately collaborated and developed a treatment plan for Michelle. From March through July 2017, Michelle underwent chemotherapy followed by surgery in August of 2017 and radiation in November of 2017. Currently, Michelle is undergoing adjuvant therapy at LCMH, which will be completed in September of this year.

"My number one advice for women is to put their health first and to not be afraid of getting a mammogram," said Michelle. "A mammogram can save your life, and early detection is crucial."

Along Michelle's journey, she has utilized the Integrative Therapy services at LCMH that are provided free of charge to patients undergoing treatment, their families and those who support them. The mission of the Integrative Therapy department at LCMH is to provide patients with support and programming that will allow them to experience a high quality of life throughout their cancer journey. The Integrative Therapy services offered at LCMH include: acupuncture, art therapy, breast cancer support group, yoga, guided imagery, hypnosis, meditation, and more.

"What I love most about LCMH is that I do not feel like just a number," said Michelle. "From the physicians to the nurses to everyone in between – I truly feel like I am at home and a part of a tight-knit community."

Today, Michelle is looking forward to living with a fresh new outlook on life. She has begun to plan trips for once her treatment is completed. The Bahamas and San Diego are on her list, which is where she plans to travel to with her family and friends.

During the most difficult time in her life, Michelle's faith in God played a huge role in her beating cancer.

"For me, breast cancer was not a death sentence but more so a wake-up call to not take life for granted and to live every day to the fullest," said Michelle.

Michelle would like to thank her doctors, nurses and support staff at LCMH for their patience, words of encouragement and commitment to aggressively treating her cancer.

Over the past 18 years, the BBCW has raised more than \$5.5 million to support LCMH's award-winning Comprehensive Breast Health Center and impacted the lives of thousands of breast cancer survivors. With generous community support in 2017, the BBCW was able to sustain its

support of current breast health programming and continue deepening its impact with the establishment of a BBCW Crisis Fund to assist LCMH breast cancer patients with emergent financial needs within our community. Additionally, a portion of the 2017 event proceeds supported a "sister-walk" partnership with the international organization, People Helping People, bringing much-needed medical equipment, supplies and services to breast cancer patients in poverty-stricken El Salvador. In 2018, our top funding priorities include continued expansion of breast health programming, assisting those who may be in financial crisis during their treatment and empowering survivors through our third annual Cancer Survivor Event.

The 19th Annual Beverly Breast Cancer Walk will take place on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13, 2018. The walk starts at 8:00 a.m. at Ridge Park located on 96th and Longwood, Chicago. Register early to receive a t-shirt with your \$30 entry fee. The entry fee for children ages 18 and under is \$15. Same-day registration is \$10 more for adults and \$5 more for children 18 and under. T-shirt availability is not guaranteed for day-of registrants. To register, go to www.BeverlyBreastCancerWalk.org today.



Michelle Rush, 2018 Beverly Breast Cancer Walk Spokesperson

Donations Sought for 9-11 Steel Project

On November 2, 2012 Chicago Fire Department Captain Herbert “Herbie” Johnson died tragically in the line of duty. Following his death, the New York City Fire Department presented a steel beam from the World Trade Center to the City of Chicago in recognition of Herbie’s work organizing volunteers to travel to ground zero in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Now, Herbie’s friends and family are raising funds to have that steel installed artistically, in his honor, at King Lockhart Park (10609 S. Western Ave).

Once completed, this project will honor Captain Herbie Johnson and all first responders. Our community is home to countless fire and police families. It is fitting that this beam be on display here, as a reminder to all residents of the incredible sacri-



Steel beam recovered from the Twin Towers after 9/11 that will be used for a Memorial in King Lockhart Park

fices made by our first responders. It is our hope that you might consider financially supporting this endeavor. The project has a \$30,000 budget and will be a permanent tribute to those who put their lives on the line each day to keep us safe. Donations can be made payable to the Chicago Parks Foundation at mailed to the 19th Ward Office - 10400 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60643.

Through a collaboration with the Chicago Park District Foundation, a 501-(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax deductible. It is our hope you can join us in honoring Herbie, and all first responders. Any consideration of our efforts is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or ideas for fundraising, please email mattoshea@the19thward.com.



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STATE SENATOR
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Hurley Sponsors Legislation to Increase Early Breast Cancer Detection

Women would have access to vital medical information that could increase early breast cancer detection rates under legislation sponsored by State Rep. Fran Hurley (D-35). House Bill 4392 requires every provider of mammography services to inform women of their dense breast tissue and the risk factors.

Statistics have shown that mammograms miss more than 50% of cancers in dense breast tissue, and 70% of breast cancers are found in dense breasts.

"Dense breast tissue is quite common, and is often not considered abnormal," Hurley said. "However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This legislation will raise patients' awareness of risks associated with dense breast tissue."

Patti Beyer, an advocate for the legislation and survivor of breast cancer, brought the legislation to Hurley who immediately signed on as chief co-sponsor. Beyer shared testimony before the House Human Services Committee in April on the importance of mammography providers to inform women of

their dense breast tissue. Beyer, like so many other women, had never been given any information about her breast density. Although Beyer's mammogram results were considered "normal," only an ultrasound she requested pointed to "an area of concern." A biopsy then showed she had invasive breast cancer.

Because of her personal experience, Beyer launched The Illinois Breast Density Initiative, which aims to advance breast density inform laws in the U.S.



"The Breast Density Inform Law would give every woman in Illinois the opportunity for access to an early-stage diagnosis of breast cancer, if cancer is present," said Hurley.

"Women cannot be active participants in their own breast health unless they have been informed and notified through conversation with their doctor."

Currently, HB 4392 is scheduled for debate on the House Floor. Over 30 states have already passed breast density inform laws. Passage of the bill would increase chances for early-stage breast cancer diagnosis. Hurley is an advocate for women's health and will continue to fight for policies that benefit women across Illinois.

Cunningham measure cracks down on school violence threats on social media, expands mental health evaluations

Individuals who threaten gun violence against schools on social media would be required to reimburse police departments for added security and emergency response costs under legislation introduced this spring by State Senator Bill Cunningham.

The legislation, Senate Bill 563, is aimed at reducing the trend of copycat threats in the wake of school shootings by updating the disorderly conduct statute, which is the state law most often used to prosecute individuals who make threats against schools. Under current law, those convicted of making threats are required to reimburse public safety agencies for response-related costs, but only if they make the threat via a 9-1-1 phone call or if they specifically threaten to use a bomb.

"Most threats of violence against schools are no longer made through a phone call and increasingly, the threats make no mention of a bomb," Cunningham said. "According to law enforcement agencies in my

district, threats against schools are more commonly made via social media posts. The law needs to be updated to address this change."

In an additional effort to combat school shooting, the legislation would also give police departments the ability to immediately bring individuals who make threats against a school to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation.

"The burden for determining whether a threat against a school is legitimate or just a prank should not fall solely on the police," Cunningham said. "We need to empower our law enforcement and healthcare providers to work together and provide that safety net."

In drafting the legislation, Cunningham worked

closely with Palos Hills Police Chief Paul Madigan, whose department heightened security measures at local schools four times this year due to threats on social media.

In some cases throughout the country, school administrators have ordered school closures as a pre-emptive measure following online threats.



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Session Five: Vaudeville Off-Broadway! August 6-17 – Theatre & Dance focus

Session Six: Lights, Camera, Action! August 20-31 – Film focus

Pre-Camp 7:30am-8:30am \$60 non-members, \$54 members

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Week Three: "Greatest Week on Earth", June 25 – 29

Week Four: "Every Child is an Artist" July 9 – 13

Week Five: This Place Is A ZOO! July 16 – 20

Week Six: All Things Disney, July 23 – 27

Week Seven: Little Scientists, July 30 – August 3

Week Eight: To Infinity and Beyond...Out of this World! August 6 – Aug 10

Week Nine: Hero is My Middle Name August 13 – 17

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The A. Montgomery Ward Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee and Little Company of Mary Hospital Foundation.

Beverly/Morgan Park Home Tour Showcases Neighborhood Lifestyle Built Around Rock Island Stations

Five private homes -- all within walking distance of local Metra stops and illustrative of the lifestyle and history of commuter service in our community -- will be open to visitors for the Beverly Area Planning Association's 47th edition of the Beverly Hills/Morgan Park Home Tour, Sun., May 20, 12 to 5 p.m.

Visitors on this year's tour will step inside a stunning Colonial revival mansion that has been renovated from foundation to roof; a deluxe Chicago bungalow beautifully updated for an active family; a gracious Tudor just steps away from the woods; a charming Prairie-influenced hilltop home; and a handsome stucco cottage with a garden hideaway.

Homes are selected for the tour because of their outstanding decorating, amenities and architecture. Featured this year are homes where contemporary stylings enhance original architectural details and offer a range of great ideas for updating kitchens, baths, basements and even yards. The homes also show the inextricable impact the opening of the Rock Island Railroad's service to this area made on the creation and expansion of the community we now know as Beverly/Morgan Park. The convenience of the Metra

Rock Island service to Chicago's Loop is still an important factor in why residents choose to live here.

Home Tour stops feature cooking and decorating demonstrations, experts offering home and garden advice, sponsor giveaways, tastings and more.

A True Commuter Community
Beverly/Morgan Park would not exist today had it not been for the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad (now the Metra Rock Island). When the Rock began daily commuter service downtown nearly 150 years ago, the sparsely settled areas along the Blue Island Ridge that became Beverly/Morgan Park began attracting people who desired homes in a "suburban" setting but accessible to jobs and shopping, as well as railroad workers and service providers in need of lodging close to station stops.

Home construction on the Ridge boomed following the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. From mansions that housed some of Chicago's most prominent families, to cottages and bungalows for families of more modest means, quick transportation downtown was a key influencer for home buyers more than a century ago, just as it is for buyers today. Many

of the stations, now located at four-block intervals from 91st to 115th Streets, served as village centers for shopping, and the surviving stations built in the late 1800s and early 1900s form the Rock Island Train Station historic district because of their historic and architectural significance. All of the stations are part of daily life for the estimated 8.3 million riders currently commuting between Joliet and LaSalle Street each year.

At Home in Beverly/Morgan Park Today

For more than four decades, BAPA's Beverly/Morgan Park Home Tour has been opening the doors to some of the neighborhood's most remarkable private residences. Tickets to this year's tour are \$30 in advance at www.bapa.org or \$35 on the day of the tour, Sun., May 20. Homes are open from 12 to 5 p.m. All tours are self-guided and must begin by 3 p.m. The starting point is RMH Design, 1806 W. 103rd St., an eclectic home décor and clothing boutique, where people must check-in to receive their booklets, which are required for admission into the homes.

Thank You Home Tour Sponsors
Mike Haggerty Buick-GMC-Volkswagen in Oak Lawn, Beverly Bank & Trust, Southtown Health

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Information about the Home Tour and sponsorship opportunities, as well as tickets are available at BAPA, 773-233-3100 or www.bapa.org.




A TOWN HALL DISCUSSION ON CANNABIS LEGALIZATION


Monday, June 11, 2018 • 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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Hosted by:



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Smith Village residents appreciate 19th Ward senior dinners

In 2014, Theresa Messerle moved from her home in Chicago’s Ashburn neighborhood to Smith Village. She appreciates the friends she’s made at the life plan community, the friendly staff and the many activities—she loves playing Canasta. And, she’s also gained a deep appreciation for the 19th Ward, and for Alderman Matt O’Shea’s efforts to engage more seniors.

“He’s a great alderman, he does a lot for Smith Village, and he’s always planning something for seniors,” said Messerle. “I’ve enjoyed the dinners at Bourbon Street—if there are games, I play them. The fried chicken is great. For five dollars? You can’t beat it. There’s the St. Patrick’s Day dinner with corned beef. And the Thanksgiving dinner at Chicago Ag High School, that’s a one-of-a-kind experience. The kids at that school raise the turkeys, grow the produce and cook everything for us. They’re great too.”

Messerle receives invitations from the Alderman’s office and reminders from Smith Village.

Accepting those invitations, she usually boards the Smith Village bus with about 10 or 15 other residents for each event.

“The food is one thing—really good—but it’s also nice to be around so many people and to meet people who do not live at Smith Village too,” she said.

Messerle was pleased Alderman O’Shea invited political candidates to the senior dinner preceding the last election. “The politicians came around and introduced themselves, and gave us their flyers,” she said. “I enjoyed getting to meet them.”

Messerle retired in 1991 from a 30-year career with Continental Bank, now Bank of America. When asked about her title and responsibilities, she said simply, “I did just about everything!” As a token of appreciation for her service, the bank gave her a grandfather clock. The time piece towers over her in her Smith Village apartment.

Her husband, Jerry, now deceased, served as a vice president of East Side Bank & Trust. They raised three children: Linda, Mary

and Mike. Her son Mike Messerle, an architect, lives with his wife, Mary, in Beverly.

Messerle has seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren—plus five great, great-grandchildren and one more on the way.

In addition to Alderman O’Shea’s events, Messerle also enjoys hosting holiday dinners and birthday parties at Smith Village. She frequently invites as many as 10 or 11 family members to join her for Easter, Mother’s Day and summer picnics as well. “The nice thing about dinners prepared by others is people can get together to enjoy each other and socialize. And there’s no cleanup for me or any of my family!” she said.

About Smith Village

Smith Village is sponsored by Smith Senior Living, a not-for-profit organization serving older adults since 1924. The life plan community, located at 2320 W. 113 th Place in Beverly Morgan Park, provides spacious residences and engaging programs for independent living, as well as

assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing care. Smith Village also offers short-term rehabilitation services for residents and others requiring assistance after surgery or a medical incident. For more information, call 773-474-7300 or visit SmithVillage.org.



Smith Village resident Theresa Messerle appreciates Alderman Matt O’Shea’s efforts to reach out to seniors.

Sister Maryellen Callahan leads ‘value-centered Christian education’ at St. Angela School

Tearing down to build up a vibrant parish school on Chicago’s West Side

Most days Sister Maryellen Callahan RSM, leaves her apartment at Mercy Circle just before dawn. She plans for about an hour’s drive to Chicago’s Austin neighborhood where she is president and guidance counselor for St. Angela’s elementary school, serving about 255 pre-kindergarten through 8th grade students.

A passer-by might think of St. Angela’s School, at 1332 N. Massasoit as an ongoing construction site, but Sister Maryellen knows it’s more like a

transformation.

“We are developing an open space where three buildings—a rectory, a church and a convent—had served this community for many decades. Soon, we’ll have a baseball field, a track and an outside classroom,” she explains.

“Our plans are to develop outdoor spaces where children can learn, pray, play and relax – and we’re very excited. We took first steps last fall with some sod, trees and landscape materials and volunteers are helping us to take some big steps forward this spring,” says Lynn Fredrick, director of development at St. Angela school.

Along with the school’s faculty, staff and volunteers, Sister Maryellen also transforms the lives of their young students, keeping in mind the school’s motto: “Today’s Learners. Tomorrow’s Leaders.” While the St. Angela’s school has been through tough times, support from Big Shoulders Fund, a non-profit, designed to help children attend parochial schools in underprivileged areas in Chicago, St. Angela’s has been growing stronger each year for the last decade and a half.

“We have so much support inside and outside,” Sister Maryellen says. “Just the other day we received a donation online from a person who graduated from

our school in 1938.”

Sister Maryellen has been counseling, teaching, and working in administration and development at the school for 25 years. She emphasizes the ministry is enjoyable because her students continue to thrive. “Many of our graduates go to Fenwick High School in Oak Park,” she says, “but some attend St. Ignatius or other top Chicago public high schools including Whitney Young and Lane Tech.” There is satisfaction for Sister Maryellen, who grew up on the West Side—attending St. Thomas Aquinas grammar school (now St. Martin de Porres) and Siena Catholic High School for girls—to witness the redevelopment and renewal at St. Angela’s community. Sister Maryellen is the only full-time Sister of Mercy at St. Angela’s, which is run by the Sisters of Providence, but most of the faculty is comprised of laypeople led by a lay principal. Sister Maryellen’s fellow Sisters of Mercy, who also live at Mercy Circle, are very supportive with small financial gifts to St. Angela’s. A handful of the Mercy Sisters attend holiday programs at the elementary school.

Sister Maryellen has no intention of retiring. “I am always looking forward. We already have 120 students registered for fall,” she explains, “and I’m thrilled to

be part of the planning for our beautiful campus.”

If you are interested in donating an engraved brick for the ‘new’ green campus at St. Angela or making a contribution to honor Sr. Maryellen’s service to children in a commemorative garden under development now—where children can learn, pray, play and relax—please call 773.626.2655 or visit the St. Angela website, www.saintangela.org.

“On June 2nd, the donated bricks will be blessed,” Fredrick explains, “along with the outdoor space, the trees and the children who will enjoy them.”

About Mercy Circle

Welcoming older adults from all walks of life, Mercy Circle is a continuing care retirement community on the southwest side of Chicago near the Village of Evergreen Park. The not-for-profit has a no-entrance-fee policy and a five-star CMS rating. Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy West Midwest, it is the only faith-based retirement community in the area. Mercy Circle offers spacious residences at all levels of care, along with thoughtful amenities, life enrichment programs and social and friendship opportunities.

For more information or to set-up a private appointment, please call 773.253.3600.



Sister Maryellen Callahan RSM has been a full-time president and counselor at St. Angela School in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago’s West Side for 25 years.



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