



# Quarterly

A Publication of the 19th Ward Youth & Community Foundation  
Matthew J. O'Shea

FEBRUARY 2025

**10 WGN Radio**  
**Vest-a-Thon FUNDRAISER**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025**  
**10 A.M. - 1 P.M.**

**ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S**  
**GET BEHIND THE VEST PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Tune into WGN Radio 720 AM or WGNRadio.com** to participate in this great event!  
If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring, please contact [mattoshea@the19thward.com](mailto:mattoshea@the19thward.com).  
To donate, please visit [www.cpdvest.com](http://www.cpdvest.com)

The 19th Ward is partnering with **WGN Radio Home Sweet Home Chicago with David Hochberg** for this fundraiser supporting the **Chicago Police Memorial Foundation** and promoting **Alderman Matt O'Shea's Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast**.

Tune into AM Radio 720 to hear stories from Chicago Police Officers whose lives have been saved by bulletproof vests and learn more about the increased danger they face.

Listeners who call in with donations will have the opportunity to win great prizes including skybox experiences for Chicago sports teams, sports memorabilia and much more!

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10402 S. Western Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60643

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

**SAINT JOHN FISHER – KANE HALL**  
**10200 S. Washtenaw Ave., Chicago**

**Tickets: \$5 per person / \$25 per family**

All proceeds will benefit the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's Get Behind the Vest Campaign.

**When Chicago Police Officers are hired, they receive a new bulletproof vest. However, a vest isn't bulletproof forever.**

It wears out. It breaks down. It needs to be replaced every 5 years. Just one bullet permanently damages a vest, making it unusable. Chicago Police Officers are responsible for replacing their own vests. At \$500 or more per vest, in addition to other equipment and uniform expenses, the costs can quickly add up. That's why we need your help.

The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation has paid out more than \$5.8 million dollars to purchase over 13,500 replacement vests for Chicago Police Officers with 991 vests supplied in 2024. The initiative is ongoing, and the foundation expects to provide at least 1,000 vests in 2025.



This event has raised over \$500,000 to date.

**For more information, please contact Matt O'Shea at [mattoshea@the19thward.com](mailto:mattoshea@the19thward.com) or (773) 238-8766.**

SPONSORED BY:

# WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE 19TH WARD YOUTH FOUNDATION

Being Beverly's neighborhood bank means more than just offering solid banking solutions. It means doing our part to give back to the local charities and social organizations that unite and strengthen our area. We're particularly proud to support the 19th Ward Youth Foundation and its commitment to providing quality recreational opportunities for children.

DIFFERENT APPROACH, BETTER RESULTS<sup>®</sup>

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& TRUST COMPANY N.A.<sup>™</sup>  
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Give your child a  
financial head start with  
the Junior Savers Club<sup>®</sup>!  
[thebeverlybank.com/js](http://thebeverlybank.com/js)

**Junior Savers Club.** Membership is for customers under age 22.





# Gill Named Vice-Chairperson of House Agriculture & Conservation Committee

State Representative Mary Gill has been selected as the Vice-Chairperson of the Illinois House's Agriculture & Conservation Committee, where she will further advocate for the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences and support an industry critical to the state's economic well-being.



"I'm proud to represent the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, a leading academy that produces outstanding students every year who then go on to make a difference in farming communities across our state," Gill said. "Our state's agriculture industry impacts every community in Illinois, supporting jobs and our access to food and fuel. It's an industry that brings investment to this state from around the world, and it's critical that the General Assembly is a strong partner in ensuring that agriculture continues to thrive."

Gill has been a strong supporter for agricultural causes, earning recognition last year by the Cook

County Farm Bureau and Illinois Farm Bureau with a "Friend of Agriculture" award. In addition to her legislative record, Gill has regularly engaged stakeholders to better understand the challenges facing the industry, including "adopting" a farm in northwest Illinois' Stephenson County to see firsthand the work being done.

In addition to the Agriculture & Conservation Committee, Gill will join the Police & Fire, Mental Health & Addiction, Veterans' Affairs, Prescription Drug Affordability and Small Business, Tech Innovation, & Entrepreneurship Committees.

"A lot of people in our area may not think about the impact of agriculture, but it does make a real difference in the economic health of our community," Gill said. "I'm looking forward to joining this committee, and of the work ahead to build a stronger Illinois that offers greater opportunity for everyone."

For more information, please contact RepMaryGill@gmail.com.

# CAPS Meeting Calendar

## BEATS 2211 & 2212

First Thursday of the month @ 6pm  
Feb, March, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct  
22nd District Police Station, 1900 W. Monterey Ave.

**Zoom.us**  
ID: 896 6029 3972  
Passcode: 842356  
Call in: (312) 626-6799

## BEAT 2213

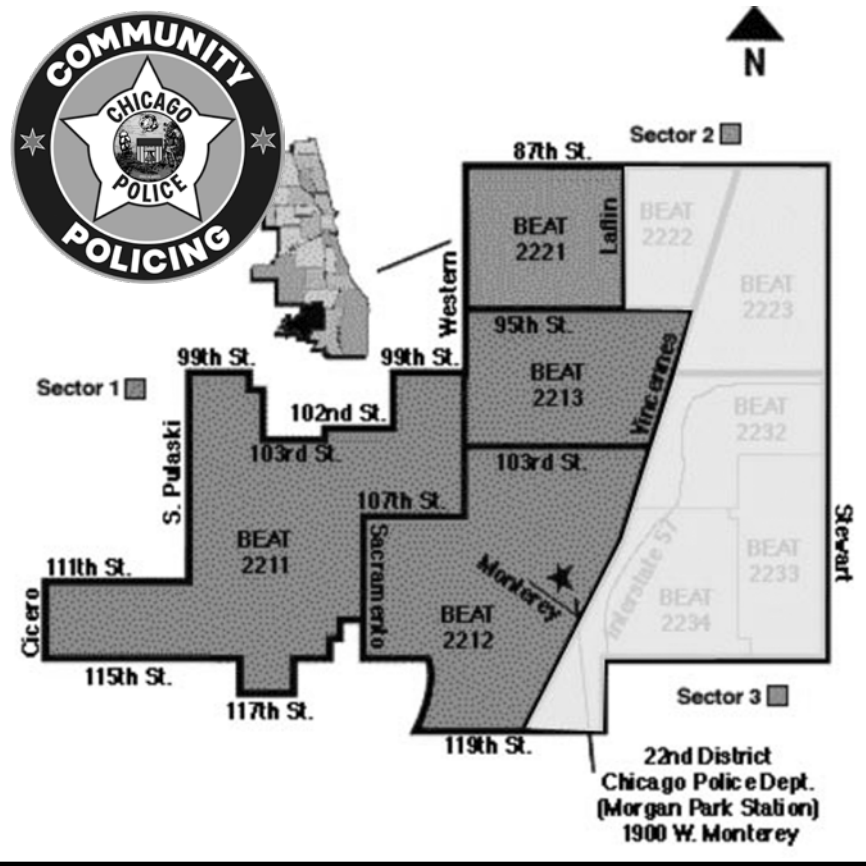

Second Thursday of the month @ 6pm  
Feb, March, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct  
Ridge Park, 9625 S. Longwood Dr.

**Zoom.us**  
ID: 862 9675 4520  
Passcode: 251268  
Call in: (312) 626-6799

## BEAT 2221

First Tuesday of the month @ 6pm  
Feb, March, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct  
Christ the King Parish, 9235 S. Hamilton Ave.

**Zoom.us**  
ID: 882 1826 1822  
Passcode: 569965  
Call in: (312) 626-6799

## 19TH WARD


# DOCUMENT SHREDDING


Please note, this event is for document shredding only.  
We will not have electronics recycling available.


**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025**  
**9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.**  
**CROSSWINDS CHURCH**  
**10835 S. PULASKI RD.**



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

  
 BILL CUNNINGHAM  
STATE SENATOR

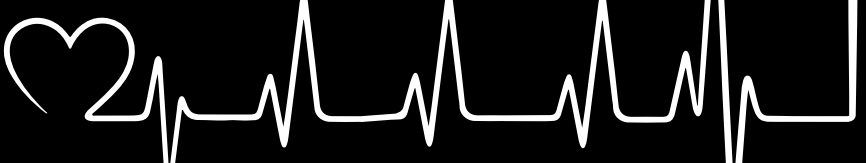
  
 Mary GILL  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 35th DISTRICT



## 19th Ward

YOUTH & COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



# BLOOD DRIVE


**SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025**


**8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**


**BEVERLY DONOR CENTER**  
9920 S. WESTERN AVE., CHICAGO, IL


To schedule your donation, visit [communityblood.org/donor](https://communityblood.org/donor), click "Donate Now" and search for sponsor code **C055** to locate this blood drive. You may also call (800) 280-4102.


**Remember to hydrate.**  
**Know your medication and travel history.**  
**Bring your photo ID.**

  
 THE COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER  
connecting lives | sharing life

  
 Matt O'SHEA  
19TH WARD ALDERMAN



  
 BILL CUNNINGHAM  
STATE SENATOR

  
 Mary GILL  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 35th DISTRICT

[www.communityblood.org](https://www.communityblood.org)

## Restaurant Resolution on Western Avenue

Resolve to gather at Western Avenue restaurants with friends and family in 2025! January and February are notoriously slow months for restaurants. Sponsored by the Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association, this campaign is designed to drive more traffic into our local restaurants and position them to have a profitable 2025. Please visit Western

Avenue restaurants on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays in February and you could win a Bucks Stay Here gift card. Participating restaurants include: Fox's, Franco-nello, Horse Thief Hollow, Nicky's, Ken's, Open Outcry, and Americanos. For more information on the raffle please visit [www.mpbhba.org/restaurant-resolution/](http://www.mpbhba.org/restaurant-resolution/)



## MT. GREENWOOD Community Food Drive benefiting Pat's Pantry

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025**  
10:00am - 12:00pm

**Mt. Greenwood Community Church**  
3509 W. 111th Street, Chicago



No Contact Drive Up Service Available

Pat's Pantry is a food pantry operated in collaboration with the Mt. Greenwood Community Church in memory of Patrick Turney.

We are collecting non-perishable and toiletry items.

### The most commonly needed items include:

- Applesauce
- Cooking Oil
- Kleenex
- Boxed Oatmeal
- Jelly/Jam
- Paper Towels
- Canned Beans
- Nuts
- Shampoo
- Canned Fruit
- Pasta/Pasta Sauce
- Soap
- Canned Soup
- Rice
- Toilet Paper
- Canned Stew
- Bandages
- Toothbrush/
- Canned Tomatoes
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Canned Tuna
- Feminine Products
- Grocery Gift Cards
- Canned Vegetables

**Monetary donations also appreciated.**  
**Checks can be made payable to Pat's Pantry.**

Pat's Pantry offers food pick up opportunities  
**Wednesdays from 3:00-6:00pm.**

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Kathy Cavalonne Turney at [patspantrymtgcc@gmail.com](mailto:patspantrymtgcc@gmail.com).

The Mt. Greenwood Community Food Drive is sponsored by:

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

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Mary GILL**  
30th DISTRICT

**BILL CUNNINGHAM**  
STATE SENATOR

Mount Greenwood  
COMMUNITY & BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

[www.MtGreenwoodFoodPantry.wordpress.com](http://www.MtGreenwoodFoodPantry.wordpress.com)

## Citizen Utility Board Hosts Virtual Presentation for Home Energy Savings and for Internet Options and Data Privacy: What You Need to Know

Alderman Matt O'Shea, Senator Bill Cunningham, State Representative Mary Gill, and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) will host two virtual presentations on Tuesday, April 1st from 6-7 p.m. and on Thursday, April 3rd from 1-2 p.m. There is no cost for these webinars. Please visit the 19th Ward website, [www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com) to reserve your spot.

Are you concerned about the rise in utility prices? Join CUB for information about how to reduce



your energy usage. This event is designed to help you better understand the ins and outs of your bill and avoid utility scams, as well as programs designed to save you money and energy. Bring all your utility-related questions. Additionally, you'll learn how to protect your privacy online and discover service options. Stay safe and informed in the digital world!

For money-saving advice and consumer tips, please visit [www.citizensutilityboard.org](http://www.citizensutilityboard.org).

## Gill Begins New Term in Springfield, Emphasizes Sensible Approach to Education, Public Safety

State Representative Mary Gill recently retook her oath of office and issued the following statement:

"The start of a new General Assembly term is an opportunity to prioritize the issues families in our community care about. They expect Springfield to take a strong, sensible approach that improves educational opportunities for our children, makes our streets safer and addresses the high cost of living.

There are real fiscal challenges for our state on the horizon underscoring the need for us to focus on the issues that matter most to working families – including responsi-



bly investing in proven public safety strategies that support our first responders. From health care to infrastructure, taking a smart, balanced approach is necessary for us to properly support the needs of residents of all ages.

It is an incredible privilege to have the opportunity to represent this community in Springfield. I'm thankful for the countless connections I have made with residents since taking office, and I'm excited for the days ahead. Let's get to work."

For more information, please contact [repmarygill@gmail.com](mailto:repmarygill@gmail.com)

## 2025 Community Health Expo

The 2025 Community Health Expo, held at Ridge Park and sponsored by OSF HealthCare Little Company of Mary Medical Center, was a resounding success, reaffirming its reputation as one of Beverly/Morgan Park's most impactful health-focused events. The expo brought together a diverse array of healthcare professionals, wellness advocates, and local residents for a day dedicated to promoting holistic health and community well-being.

This year's expo was headlined by Val Warner, Emmy-winning host and passionate wellness advocate. Her engaging presence captivated the audience as she shared personal stories and actionable tips on integrating wellness into busy lives. Attendees left feeling empowered and motivated to take charge of their health journeys.

With over 50 exhibitors, the event allowed attendees to explore various health and wellness services, including free health screenings, fitness demonstra-

tions, and nutrition consultations. OSF HealthCare provided comprehensive health assessments, ensuring residents had access to vital resources and information. Attendees also had the chance to interact with local businesses and wellness practitioners, strengthening the community's connection to its health-focused resources.

The event's success was evident in the number of attendees – exceeding expectations – and in the overwhelmingly positive participant feedback. Many expressed gratitude for connecting with healthcare providers and learning about new resources designed to support their well-being.

The 2025 Community Health Expo underscored the importance of creating accessible, inclusive spaces where residents can explore all aspects of wellness. It was a day of learning, connection, and celebration that left a lasting impression on the Beverly/Morgan Park community.



# OPENING DOORS TO BRIGHT FUTURES.



## **MOST AFFORDABLE**

Catholic University in Illinois  
Net Price of Attendance  
Federal Website:  
CollegeNavigator.gov



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for providing a transformational educational experience



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among regional universities in the Midwest



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UNIVERSITY

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Our customers are more than twice as likely to recommend us to friends and family based on Net Promoter Score(NPS)\*.

**Marquette Bank NPS: 68**

*(Marquette Bank Customer Survey Q4 2024/Q1 2025 - 3,832 responses)*

**Banking Industry Avg. NPS: 28**

*(Qualtrics XM Institute Q3 & Q4 2024 U.S. Consumer Benchmark Study)*



\*NPS are registered trademarks of Bain & Company, Satmetrix & Fred Reichheld.

**Rediscover Modern Neighborhood Banking**

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Chicago – Mount Greenwood  
3435 W. 111th Street, Chicago, IL 60655

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# Free Online Tax Filing Now Available for Many Illinois Residents

With this year's tax season upon us, State Senator Bill Cunningham is urging his constituents to see if they are eligible to participate in the state's new IRS Direct File service, which will allow qualifying Illinois residents to file their income tax returns online for free.

"Before the internet age, those of us who did our own taxes filled out our tax returns on paper and mailed them to the IRS. The only cost was the price of the postage stamp," Cunningham said. "Now, more than 90 percent of Americans file electronically, and it can cost up to \$100 or more."

"Finally, thanks to an agreement reached by the Illinois Department of Revenue and the IRS, we have a free electronic filing option."

Governor JB Pritzker announced news of the agreement shortly

after the start of the new year. He estimates that two million eligible Illinois taxpayers will now be able to use Direct File to electronically prepare and file their 2024 federal tax returns for free.

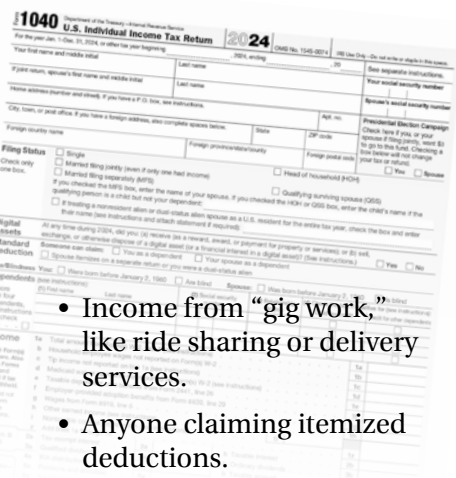
"As we approach tax season, it is crucial that Illinoisians and their families have the resources needed to file their 2024 federal tax returns," Pritzker said. "Direct File will no doubt put money typically spent on tax preparation services back into the pockets of hardworking families across Illinois."

Direct File was initially launched as a test program by the IRS in a handful of states. Following a successful pilot, the service has become a permanent option, with up to 25 states expected to participate this year. The IRS estimates that over 30 million taxpayers will be eligible

for Direct File during the 2025 tax filing season. It is an online service that is accessible on mobile phones, laptops, tablets, or desktop computers. Users will have access to a chatbot for guidance in both English and Spanish. It simplifies tax filing by providing a checklist and a guide to help navigate the process.

However, not all tax filers will be able to use Direct File. High earners and taxpayers who typically file complicated returns may not be eligible. Anyone with these tax situations is likely **ineligible**:

- Wages in excess of \$200,000 for an individual filer or \$250,000 for a married couple filing jointly.
- Unreported cash income, like tips.



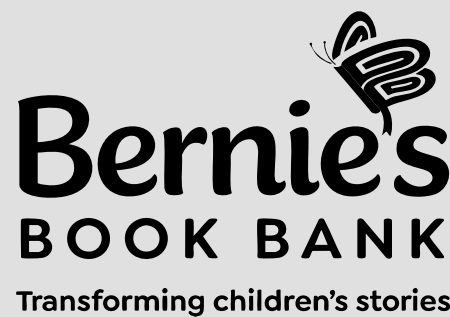
- Income from "gig work," like ride sharing or delivery services.
- Anyone claiming itemized deductions.


Additionally, tax filers who receive income from pensions and other retirement plans are currently ineligible. However, the IRS has announced that it plans to open the Direct File portal to those with retirement income before the end of the filing deadline this year – hopefully in March.

To check eligibility and to use the service, Illinoisans can visit <https://www.irs.gov/filings/irs-direct-file-for-free>

## Bernie's Book Drive Sends Their Thanks

Carol Collier, the leader of Bernie's Book Bank's Community Development team, sent her thanks for the 19th Ward's recent book drive. With the help of our residents, the 19th Ward donated over 6,000 gently used children's books. The 19th Ward's contribution surpassed last year's donation of 5,000 books and was the largest book drive conducted on behalf of Bernie's Book Drive for 2024. The donated books were immediately taken in for processing and will be in the hands of children by the end of February. Thank you to all our residents for helping make our drive such a success!



**I PROTECT THOSE WHO PROTECT ME.**  
  
**FILL UP YOUR TANK AT SHELL GAS STATION AND 15¢ PER GALLON WILL BE DONATED TO THE CHICAGO POLICE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.**

**February 17th - 21st**  
**Shell Gas Station**  
 (Formerly Kean Gas Station)  
 2632 W. 111th Street

Shell will donate 5 cents for every gallon of gas pumped. Two generous donors have agreed to match that donation. That means every gallon of gas pumped will generate 15 cents for the Get Behind the Vest Campaign.

**Alderman O'Shea will pump gas at Shell from 1-3 p.m. on Friday, February 21st**

THANK YOU TO:

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

**BILL CUNNINGHAM**  
 STATE SENATOR

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
 35th DISTRICT  
**Mary GILL**



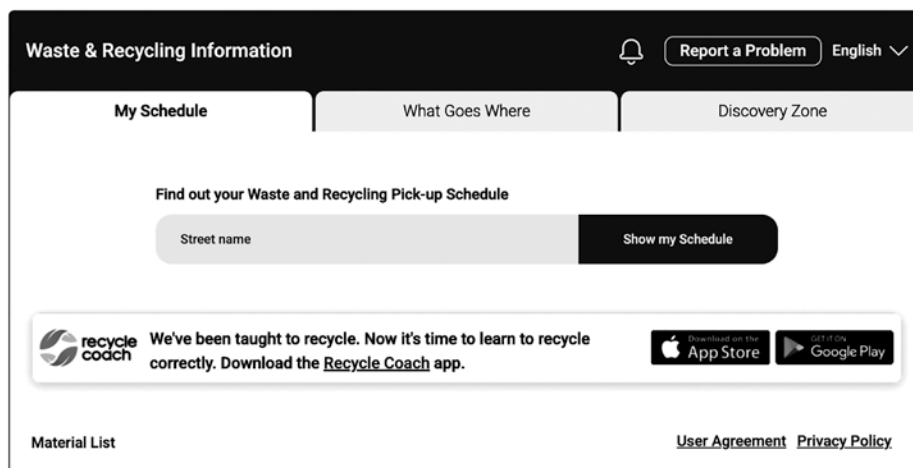
## City of Chicago Recycling Schedule & New Tools for Residents

The Department of Streets and Sanitation recently introduced the new Recycle Coach education app designed to bring hyper-local waste and recycling information directly to city residents. The new mobile and smartphone app is available at no cost to Chicago through a partnership with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and Recycle Coach. It advises residents on waste and recycling schedules and proper waste management to decrease contamination at material recovery facilities, increase the diversion of materials from landfills, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Chicago residents can also access the Recycle Coach tool at [chicagorecycles.org](http://chicagorecycles.org) and input an address to receive customized waste and recycling information specific to where they live including:

- collection and event calendars
- updates on service changes
- a comprehensive database on what is and isn't recyclable, including local disposal information for common and uncommon items
- additional educational content

We encourage residents to download the new app and explore the information available on [chicagorecycles.org](http://chicagorecycles.org).



# South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade Gears Up with Pre-Parade Fundraiser

The South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Pre-Parade Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 3-8 p.m. at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 W. 115th Street in Merrionette Park. Tickets are \$50 and admission includes a dinner buffet, draft beer, and wine. The event will also feature raffle prizes and the announcement of the 2025 South Side Irish Parade Queen. Sean and Charlie and Whiskey Mick will provide live music.

"We are excited to see everyone come together at the South Side Irish pre-parade fundraiser. This great evening helps us to raise funds that keeps our tradition of marching down Western Avenue alive and thriving," said Marianne Rowan Leslie, this year's chair of the South Side Irish parade committee.

The fundraiser helps offset the costs for putting on the parade, which is scheduled to step off from 103rd and Western Avenue on Sunday, March 16th at noon.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance from the parade's website store. Please visit southsideirishparade.org for more information.

Residents are invited to purchase a street pole banner customized with their family name. Street

pole banners are displayed along the parade route and west on 111th Street in the Mount Greenwood neighborhood. To purchase a new street pole banner or renew a banner for 2025, please visit <https://southsideirishparade.org/product/street-pole-banner/>

The parade is operated by the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade and Heritage Foundation, a 501©3 non-profit organization, where more than 100 volunteers work year-round to ensure this

family-friendly celebration continues for future generations.

The parade is generously supported by major sponsors including Tullamore D.E.W. the official Irish whiskey of the parade, Lakeshore Beverage, Ozinga, The Beverly Review, IUOE Local 399, Old National Bank, Chicago White Sox, Local 150, Midwest Express Clinic, Raising Cane, McCready Law, Today's Dental of Beverly, Flood Brothers, Home Run Inn Beverly, UPAT District 14, ComEd, County

Fair Foods, OSF Little Company of Mary Medical Center, UICE Local 2, Mercedes-Benz of Orland Park, Marquette Bank, Megent Financial, Ullico Inc., Nascar Chicago Street Race, Dunkin', Guinness, BudLight, Green River, Roofers and Waterproofers Local 11, South Side Imports and more.

Visit [southsideirishparade.org](https://southsideirishparade.org) and the parade's Facebook page for more information.





## PRE-PARADE FUNDRAISER

# SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 2025

## 3:00PM TO 8:00PM AT 115 BOURBON STREET

### SEAN AND CHARLIE

### WHISKEY MICK

## COST

### \$50 AT THE DOOR

INCLUDES BUD LIGHT DRAFT BEER, WINE, POP, WATER FOOD AND MUSIC

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT

## www.SouthsideIrishParade.org



SCAN ME

## Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry

### NEEDS YOUR HELP



11030 S Longwood Dr., Chicago, IL 773-239-3013

#### OUR SHELVES ARE IN NEED OF:

- Hot and cold cereals
- Bottled water
- Bottled juices
- Baby formula
- Baby diapers
- Adult diapers
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Canned salmon
- Condiments
- Corn muffin mix
- Cranberry sauce

- Cake mix
- Pancake mix
- Pancake syrup
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti sauce
- Pasta
- Stove Top dressing
- Mac and Cheese
- Pork and beans
- Baked beans
- Hormel chili with beans

- Canned chili no beans
- Sloppy joe chili
- Manwich chili
- Spam
- Chef boyardee assorted products
- Boxed sugar
- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Hot sauce
- Milk products

- Snack bars
- Tea bags
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Dentures cleaners
- Bar soap
- Dish detergents
- Kleenex tissue
- Disposable latex gloves (lg & md)
- Wrapped frozen packaged meats

#### WE ARE ALSO IN NEED OF MONETARY DONATIONS

Donate \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, \$100 or \$200 to help out with discounted and tax-exempt bulk food purchases from local businesses.

You can now donate online at [www.maplemorganparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.maplemorganparkfoodpantry.org) or checks, cashier checks and sealed cash envelopes are welcome.

Make checks payable to: Maple Morgan Park Food Pantry, 11030 S Longwood Dr., Chicago, IL 60643-4012



11030 S Longwood Dr., Chicago, IL

No contact drive up service available in the parking lot

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

\*Note: per food guidelines/regulations, non-perishable food items must be sealed, unopened and unused.



# 19th Ward Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast Returns Sunday, February 23rd with the Fourth Annual Vest Phonathon Scheduled for Saturday, February 22nd

19th Ward Alderman Matt O'Shea's 11th Annual Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast will take place on Sunday, February 23rd from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at St. John Fisher School in Kane Hall, 10200 S. Washtenaw Avenue. Alderman O'Shea will also join forces once again with WGN-AM Radio's Home Sweet Home Chicago with David Hochberg to host a "Vest-A-Thon" on Saturday, February 22nd.

The Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast and Vest-A-Thon benefits the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's (CFMF) initiative which purchases bullet proof vests for Chicago Police officers.

Admission to the Pancake Breakfast is \$5 per person or \$25 for families, This includes all you can eat Original Pancake House – Beverly pancakes and sausage.

The WGN Radio Vest-A-Thon will be aired live on WGN-AM/720 AM from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday. The Vest-A-Thon will feature stories of officers whose lives have been impacted by bullet proof vests. Officers will share their perspectives on the increasingly difficult work they do each day. Vest-A-Thon donors will have the opportunity to win incredible prizes including sky-

box experiences for many of Chicago's best teams, sports paraphernalia, and more.

Donors can also contribute by visiting cpdvest.com or by calling (872) 262-8378. If you are interested in volunteering or donating sports tickets or other items to be given away throughout the Vest-A-Thon, please email mattoshea@the19thward.com.

"Chicago Police officers have extremely difficult jobs and see and experience things that most of us could never imagine," said Alderman O'Shea. "We must provide our officers with all the tools possible to ensure that they are safe and will return home to their loved ones at the end of each shift. It is crucial that Chicago Police officers have access to equipment with the latest advancements in technology. The funds raised through the Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast and the Vest-A-Thon will help to make that possible."

Over the past 11 years, Alderman O'Shea's Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars used to purchase bullet proof vests for Chicago Police officers. Vests need to be replaced every five years. Af-

ter receiving a complimentary vest when they join the force, officers are responsible for purchasing their replacement at a cost of at least \$600. To date, the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation has replaced over 13,000 vests for officers with another 1000 projected for 2025.

Alderman O'Shea sits on the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation Advisory Board and is part of the Chicago Police Chaplains Ministry Board of Directors. He represents the communities of Beverly, Morgan Park, and Mount Green-

wood where thousands of first responders reside.

The Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast is generously cohosted by Saint John Fisher parish, the Harrigan Family, and the Original Pancake House – Beverly.

For more information on Alderman O'Shea's Pancake Breakfast benefitting the Get Behind the Vest initiative, or to support this great cause, please call (773) 238-8766 or visit [www.the19thward.com](http://www.the19thward.com).



# Summer @ MARIST 2025

## MARIST CAMPS

Register today for Marist Summer Camps!  
We have camps for everybody:

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- Band
- Broadcasting
- Dance
- Leadership
- Sports
- Journalism
- Forensic Science
- Chess
- Tech
- Theater
- Fencing

☑ Kiddie Camp

☑ Boys Athletics

☑ Girls Athletics

☑ Co-ed Specialty Camps

**JUNE 2 - JULY 24**

**OPTIONS FOR PREK - 9TH GRADE**

**MARIST HIGH SCHOOL**

4200 W. 115th St., Chicago, IL 60655

[marist.net](http://marist.net)

**MORE INFORMATION**

773.881.5345

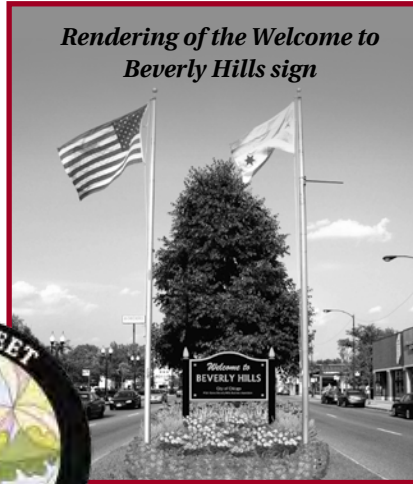
[fleming.pat@marist.net](mailto:fleming.pat@marist.net)



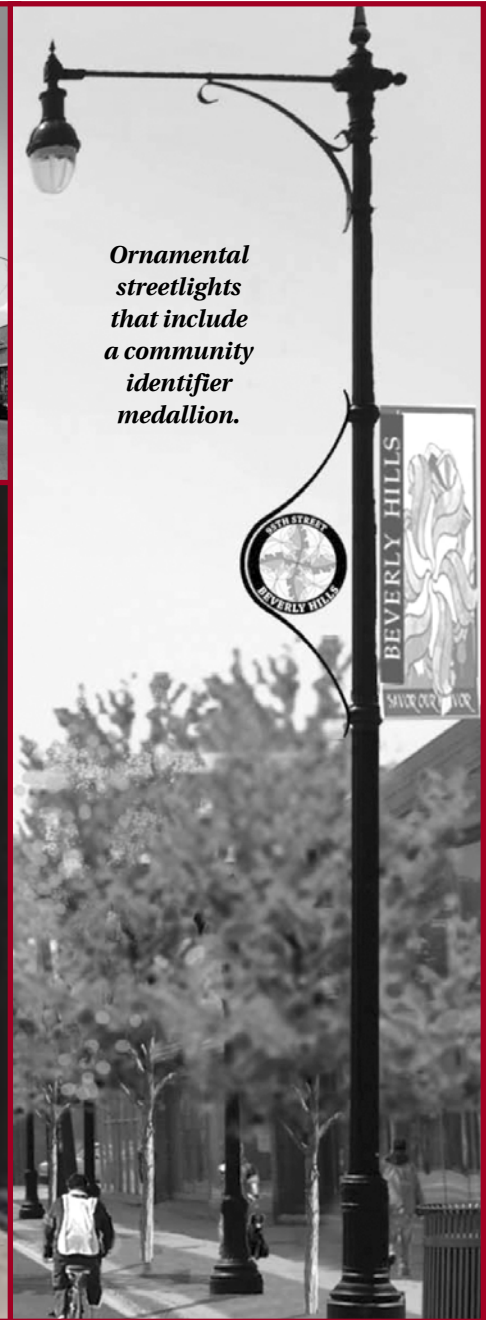
# Final Phase of 95th Street Streetscape Scheduled to Begin This Spring

The much anticipated final phase of streetscape for the 95th Street business corridor is scheduled to begin this spring. Building on the success of the first three phases of this work, the final phase will improve the area from Wood Street to Ashland Avenue. The project will include full width roadway resurfacing, new curbs, new sidewalk and ADA ramps, pedestrian refuge islands, new ornamental street lighting with energy efficient LED lighting, stamped crosswalks, paver parkways with new trees, site furnishings, light pole community identifiers, landscaped planters, and an improved connection to the Major Taylor Trail.

The final phase of streetscape represents a \$5.9 million investment in our community.



Rendering of the Welcome to Beverly Hills sign



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# Macs with Mercy Helps Pat's Pantry

## Mark Five Years of Service

When Patrick Turney died suddenly at the age of 23, in September of 2019, his mother sought a way to share his spirit with others. Kathy Turney ultimately found comfort by establishing a food pantry in her son's name. Friends and neighbors rallied to ensure Pat's Pantry would brighten the lives of others - just like Pat, whom friends and neighbors had dubbed "the mayor of Mt. Greenwood," his mother recalls.

"It is so gratifying that so many people I did not even know joined our team," Turney recently said of the pantry, located at Community Church, 3509 W. 111th Street in Chicago. "Alderman Matt O'Shea and his staff, as well as so many others, stepped up to support our

new community service." Since 2021, Macs with Mercy, an inter-generational coalition of Mother McAuley students' clubs and Mercy Circle residents, meet monthly during the school year to support the mission of Pat's Pantry.

Today, Pat's Pantry serves more than three dozen families every Wednesday. "We are grateful to Kathy for finding the courage to convert her profound loss into a way of providing comfort to others. Our community shines brightest when we work together," stated O'Shea who attended January's meeting. "Seeing McAuley students and Mercy Circle residents work together is a heartwarming example of that spirit."

On Thursday, January 16th, Macs with Mercy kicked off 2025 by planning an ambitious food drive. The school's Varsity Club and Action Reaction Club students met with Mercy Circle residents to create an outreach campaign that spotlighted specific non-perishable items the pantry needs. After Turney shared her story about founding Pat's Pantry, O'Shea talked about how most people know neighbors who experience food insecurity right in the 19th Ward.

Inspired by what they heard, small groups claimed the two or three specific kinds of products they would champion and created 30 flyers to promote awareness about what to donate. "Many readers of 'The 19th Ward Quarterly' have seen these flyers as part of this awareness campaign, on eblasts from elected officials and community organizations, as well as through social media channels for the 19th Ward, the Village of Evergreen Park, the Beverly Area Planning Association, Mother McAuley, and Mercy Circle," explained Katie McKirdie, Mercy Circle's life enrichment coordinator. "The response has been tremendous. People dropped off their contributions at our main entrance, and we had to make room for more each morning."

On Thursday, February 13th, Macs with Mercy reconvened - this time with National Honor Society students from McAuley - to organize all the donations for transport to Pat's Pantry, and to gauge which flyers attracted the most responses.

While the Macs with Mercy food drive has concluded, Pat's Pantry welcomes volunteers; picks up food donations on Wednesdays between 3-6 p.m. and accepts monetary and gift card donations. To learn more, please contact Kathy Turney at [patspantrymtgcc@gmail.com](mailto:patspantrymtgcc@gmail.com).

"Witnessing what Macs with Mercy accomplished in just a few weeks inspires us to do more," said Mike Levasseur, Mother McAuley's director of student life. "When generations come together to pursue a common purpose our students and Mercy Circle residents really benefit too."

Mercy Circle, a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community, has no entrance fee. Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, it is the only faith-based senior living community on Chicago's Southwest Side. For more information or to schedule a private appointment, please call (773) 253-3600 or visit [mercycircle.org](http://mercycircle.org).





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# Heart-Shaped Puzzles Designed to Uplift Veterans on Valentine's Day

For the 10th consecutive year, St. Cajetan School's student council members and Smith Village residents joined forces to create a special Valentine for each of the 38 veterans now in the Road Home Program at Rush University Medical Center. On Tuesday, February 11th, this intergenerational group of more than 45 newly deputized Cupids gathered at Smith Village where they painted and wrote messages – on 12 x 16-inch heart-shaped wooden puzzles – for each of the veterans in the Road Home Program, which provides mental health and wellness programs for those who served in several branches of military service, the National Guard and reserves.

"On Valentine's Day, we gave each veteran a beautifully decorated puzzle with words of encouragement. These hand-painted gifts sparked joy in the veterans we are serving. They also ignited a bit of competition about how quickly each could assemble all the pieces," said Modie Lavin, USMC Gold Star Mother, who is the family coordinator for the Road Home Program.

"We are inspired by the bravery of veterans who fought for people they don't even know. It is important that we remember them, espe-

cially when they experience invisible and visible wounds," said Rose Connolly, an eighth grader who is president of the school's student council. "Making these puzzles expresses our appreciation to veterans we never met. We think it's important to recognize how they protect us," added Finn O'Malley, a member of the student council.

"That the United States is a country at all is thanks to the hero-

ic acts of generations of those who join the military. So we created a keepsake for each of these brave men and women, to acknowledge how their service protects our freedom both on our soil and around the world," added Dave Degnan, president of Smith Village's resident council. Degnan served in the Air Force from 1961 through 1965.

"Valentines for Vets is one of my favorite collaborations in our

community," stated Alderman Matt O'Shea. "While war is part of the human condition, the kindness and thoughtfulness of citizens like Smith Village residents and St. Cajetan students make a difference not only to the veterans but also to their families and friends. In fact, this annual outreach project elevates all who participate."



(L to R) Smith Village resident Dave Degnan and St. Cajetan principal Michelle Nitsche hold the heart-shaped base for the puzzle pieces so Rose Connolly and Finn O'Malley can put the pieces in place.

## Warm Up on Western Ave

We are in the midst of another Chicago winter, which often translates to more time inside and less energy to be active. Despite the chilly temperatures and threats of snow during this time of year, Western Avenue bars and restaurants are offering many opportunities to leave the confines of your home to eat, drink, and gather with friends and neighbors!

Since last August, the bars, restaurants, coffee shops, and cafes located on Western have been meeting with the Beverly Area Planning Association and the Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association to collaborate and coordinate their weekly, monthly, and annual events in an effort to create a more vibrant business corridor. Western Avenue is a busy thoroughfare, but it's also the hub of our Beverly/Morgan Park bar and restaurant scene, and is a great place to find a fun evening activity. Stay tuned for the unveiling of a collaborative website that will

WARM UP ON WESTERN AVE

showcase Western Avenue businesses!

Thanks for supporting your local bars and restaurants. Please follow BAPA and the MPBHBA on social media, as well as your favorite local establishments, to stay up to date with monthly specials and local events.

Special events currently planned include:

- Ken's Restaurant – Special chocolate strawberry martini and menu specials throughout the month of February
- Americano's – Margarita Mondays (\$2 off all margaritas), Taco Tuesdays (\$1 off all tacos), and try the February margarita of the month, "The Arctic Margarita," a Blue Curacao Margarita
- Swanson's Deli – Stock up on take home items including soups and specialty heat and serve dinners
- Open Outcry – Stop in for trivia in the taproom each Tuesday evening
- Horse Thief Hollow – Bottomless brunch happening on Saturday, 2/22 from 12:30-2 p.m. featuring live music by Steve & Michelle
- Nicky's – Stop in on 2/17 and answer a question about U.S. presidents. Everyone who answers correctly will be entered into a gift card raffle taking place on Tuesday, 2/18



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## Creative Chicago Reuse Exchange (CCRx)

As the snow is falling and the winds are blowing, are your closets calling for a clean out? When you open a cabinet or a drawer and see all the things that you store, are you wondering how to get them out the door? But you think they are still good, they work just fine, I want them to be used another time. Often you close the drawer, snap the lid on the bin, leave the cabinet and continue the habit. Not because you want the clutter. You'd feel better giving the items to another to have a new life. But finding a spot that will appreciate and use your "what-not" items seem an impossible chore. Well, it is a chore no more. There is a warehouse close to home that collects, sorts, and finds new use for what some may consider refuse – The Creative Chicago Reuse Exchange (CCRx).

Creative Chicago Reuse Exchange (CCRx), <https://www.creativechirx.org/> is a one-of-a-kind store dedicated to the reduction of material waste and the creative reuse of resources. A resource for teachers, artists, and non-profits looking to find new life in surplus materials, supplies, and equipment, CCRx's mission is to promote sustainability and help the community by providing access to resources that would otherwise be discarded. Lucky for us, CCRx's warehouse is in nearby Auburn-

Gresham, at 2124 W. 82nd Place.

CCRx is developing a supply chain to recirculate and repurpose everyday materials cast aside by organizations yet highly useful to educators, artists, non-profits, community groups, and others. These materials include all forms of paper, digital media, pens, pencils, textbooks, manipulatives, fabric, design samples, costumes and props, tools, musical and scientific instruments and a host of other office and art supplies. These supplies are a pervasive and pernicious form of waste – seldom recyclable, highly variable, and in bountiful surplus in some settings while maddeningly scarce in others. These supplies are typically not accepted by normal resale and second-hand channels, yet, every year, Chicago's 24,000+ public school teachers and 13,000+ community, social service and church-based organizations scramble to acquire them. Concurrently, businesses, wealthier school districts, and consumers dispose of millions of dollars in surplus at considerable cost to themselves and to the environment because supply drastically outweighs demand.

Launched in 2017, inspired by successful models in other cities, CCRx is an established 501c3 non-profit that redistributes donated surplus materials, equipment, and

supplies. CCRx founder and Executive Director, Barbara Koenen, worked for more than twenty years for the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events designing programs and resources for artists and small arts organizations. Barb discovered NYC's Materials for the Arts on a business trip in 2015. She was impressed by its success in supplying and inspiring teachers and non-profits across New York City by redistributing donated materials and providing professional development based in reuse. She believed Chicago could greatly benefit from the same service and has dedicated herself to this goal ever since. Barbara is supported by seven part-time contractors, consisting of primarily artists and teaching artists. The main beneficiaries are Chicago

teachers and students, non-profit organizations, and arts and community groups, but CCRx is open to all promoting creativity, a circular economy, and environmental stewardship through creative reuse programming, products and partnerships.

CCRx's goal is to educate and empower people to reduce waste, reimagine surplus and make creative reuse a fundamental part of the collective infrastructure. The Intro to CCRx video is a great way to get to know more and is available on the CCRx website. The warehouse is open by appointment on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursdays from 12 -7 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Please contact [info@creativechirx.org](mailto:info@creativechirx.org) for more information.



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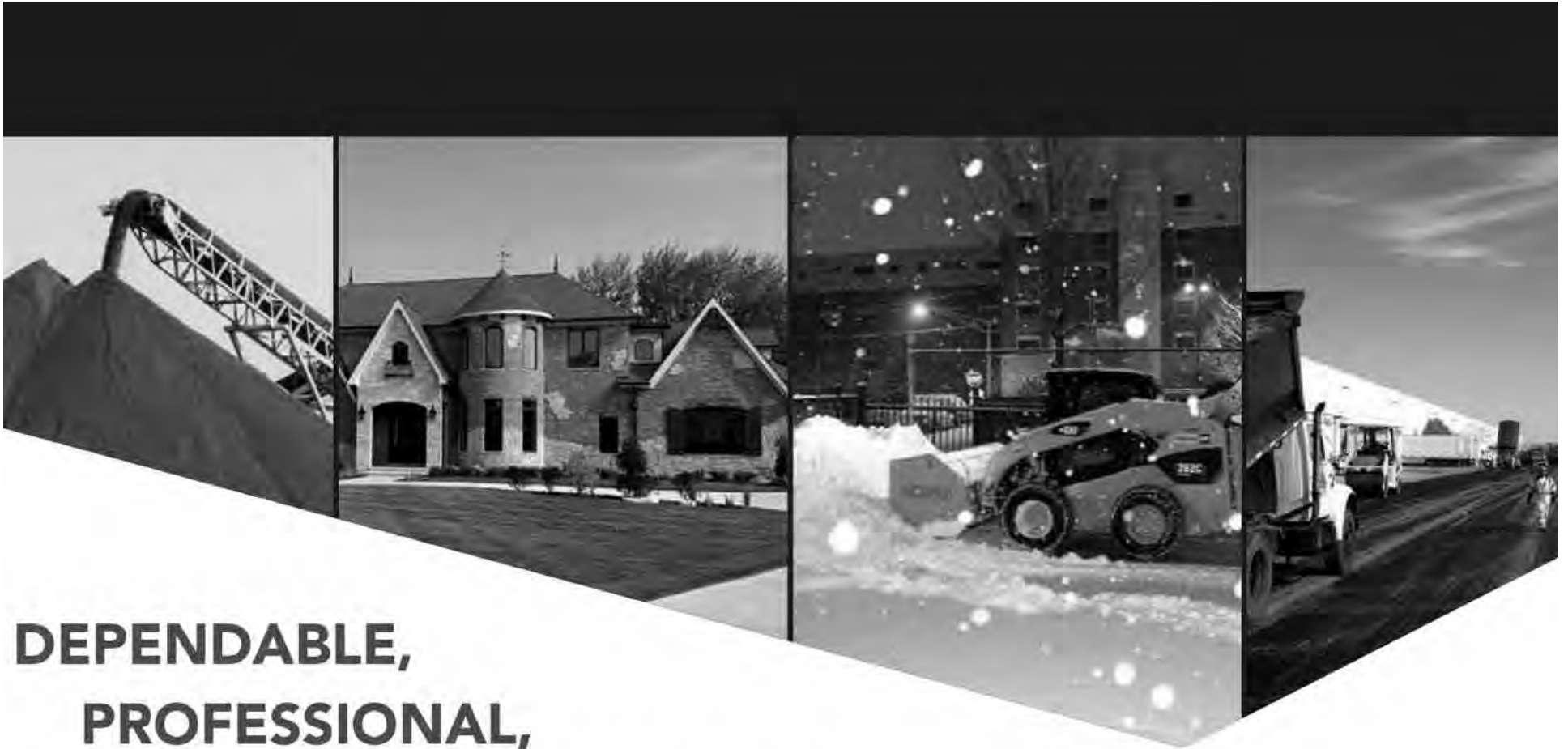
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# Smith Village Feels Like Home; South Shore Couple Energized by Community's Spirit

David and Theresa Boone explored several senior living communities before choosing Smith Village. They immediately felt at home because their children began their education at Morgan Park Academy. Then, son David Jr. attended De La Salle Institute and daughter Nicole, St. Ignatius College Prep before heading off to college.

Once they'd moved in, on December 11, 2023, they discovered that five other alumni of their alma mater, Tennessee State University, also live at Smith Village. At TSU, said Theresa, "A football player I knew introduced me to his teammate, who was the quarterback. David invited me to a basketball game scheduled for the next day. It's been a fairytale ever since December 4, 1962." David was a native of Hampton, VA. Theresa attended TSU because she couldn't enroll at the then segregated University of Mississippi in her hometown, Oxford, Mississippi.

"We believe that good race relations simply require getting people to know each other. That's how we live our lives and taught our children to do so as well," states David. When David Jr., became the only African American player on his De La Salle team, David invited the whole team for hot dogs and a party at their South Shore home, to show them that Black people lived like they did. Theresa graduated

first, in 1963, then moved to Chicago to work as a substitute teacher for Chicago Public Schools. David soon followed, renting a room and working in restaurants during that summer. Before he returned to TSU, they married on August 17, 1963. "We travelled to be with each other once a month until we started our home together in Chicago," Theresa explained. "I was a 'cougar,' and David needed to complete his degree."

In 1965, David started teaching physical education and coaching football at Hirsch High School. He left to become assistant principal at Farragut High School and then Hyde Park High School for 20 years before retiring. Theresa focused on teaching elementary school. A career highlight: in 1965, she opened Beasley Academic Center, a Chicago Public School at 52nd and State Street, where she taught fifth graders. After 13 years, she taught at Burnside Elementary School until she retired in 1991.

The Boones are active members of St. Mark Methodist Church at 84th and South Lawrence Avenue where David has served as an usher every Sunday morning for more than two decades. While still an assistant principal, he became a funeral director, with Theresa han-

dling the paperwork and amenities.

"Theresa is my rock," said David, who served as president of the National Funeral Directors & Morticians Association in 2005 and 2006. "We could only add this responsibility to our other commitments because we are a team. We are proud that over time, several members from one family have turned to us when someone close to them passed. Our goal was to help people make good decisions during a difficult time."

The Boones are united by shared goals, and they make collaboration look easy, but they maintain their own perspectives. When asked why they chose Smith Village, David immediately responded, "On our tour, I was fascinated by a robot delivering meals to tables in the dining room. I had not seen this innovation elsewhere." Added Theresa, "Not cooking every day sold me. Now it's all the competitive activities including chair volleyball for me and bean bags and Bocci ball for David. The tipping point, however, was that Nicole and her family live near by while our son lives in Atlanta."

To learn more about Smith Village, please visit [smithvillage.org](http://smithvillage.org) or call (773) 434-7303.



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