Sunday Edition



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WEST SIDE TIMES

V. 85 No. 2

P.O. BOX 50599, CICERO, IL 60804 • 708-656-6400

ESTABLISHED 1940

North Lawndale's Reawakening



By: Ashmar Mandou

Since its inception in 1987, Lawndale Christian Community Church, currently Lawndale Christian Development

Corporation (LCDC), has been at the forefront of addressing social issues and building, eliminating disparities, and building community wealth. To celebrate the organization's

history, LCDC invitees all to join them for the "Reawakening North Lawndale" Gala to mark the organization's 37 years of steadfast commitment to revitalizing the community. "I am most excited to showcase the seeds we have been planting. We are in a moment of opportunity for North Lawndale; this event is a celebration of an opportunity and the work we are putting in North Lawndale for the families of North Lawndale, for the people who are from North Lawndale who are moving back to North Lawndale. Trying to bring during uncertain times but do that through a vision that is crafted by north Lawndale natives. So, it's just a celebration of community and community voices and the impact of our work," said Whittney Smith, deputy director and counsel for LCDC.

Throughout the LCDC history, it has grown the North Lawndale Homeowners Association. There are 250 people in the organization and it is made of people who live in North Lawndale and are part of other Homeowners Associations. collective has been able to band together and get the city of Chicago to put \$2.2 million in the Chicago Public Library at Homan and 13th. It also has been able to get land for new single family homes in North Lawndale, which is part of the organization's mission to build 1,000 single family homes in the community.

Over the past few decades, LCDC has developed more than 200 units of affordable housing and overseen around \$120 million of residential and commercial redevelopment in North Lawndale, like building the Carole Robertson Center

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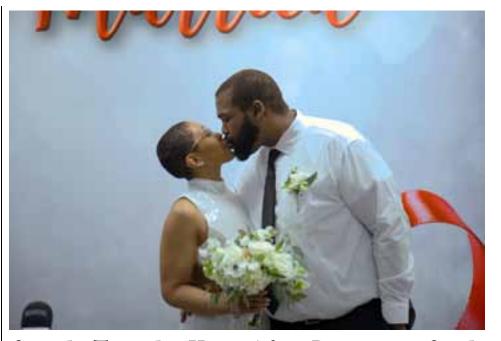
Haga "Resoluciones" de Año Nuevo en el Zoológico Brookfield de Chicago



El Zoológico Brookfield de Chicago invita a la comunidad a adoptar las "re-ZOOlutions" de Año Nuevo durante los próximos días gratuitos, incluido este fin de semana. Desde ahora y hasta el 27 de febrero, los miembros de la comunidad pueden disfrutar de la entrada gratuita al Zoológico Brookfield de Chicago de 10 a. m. a 5 p. m. los sábados, domingos, martes y jueves. A continuación, se presentan algunas formas en las que el zoológico puede ayudar a los miembros de la comunidad a lograr una variedad de "reZOOlutions". Explore los trópicos como una estadía en casa El Zoológico Brookfield de Chicago ofrece una oportunidad para escapar de la tristeza del invierno con experiencias que evocan

la sensación de una estadía tropical. Los visitantes pueden maravillarse con los flamencos en el pantano v observar delfines en Seven Seas. La Costa Viva también ofrece un mundo submarino inmersivo para explorar, incluido un hábitat que recientemente dio la bienvenida a más de 75 peces nuevos. Los visitantes pueden ver especies coloridas como el pez ángel reina y el pez cerdo español nadando junto a Pistachio, la tortuga marina. Alimente su sidad mientras aprende de la vida silvestre Los visitantes tienen innumerables oportunidades de interactuar con el mundo natural en el Zoológico Brookfield de Chicago. Pueden observar la fascinante dinámica de los polinizadores en las nuevas col-

menas de observación de abejas o visitar a los koalas Brumby y Willum mientras experimentan su primer invierno en Chicago. Cada visita al zoológico es una oportunidad para profundizar su comprensión de la vida silvestre y sus respectivos ecosistemas. Varios detalles del programa están disponibles en //brookfieldzoo.org/education. El zoológico Brookfield de Chicago ahora está abierto todos los días de 10 a.m. a 5 p. m. Los días de entrada gratuita se llevan a cabo los sábados, domingos, martes y jueves desde el 2 de enero hasta el 27 de febrero. Las tarifas de estacionamiento y atracción aún se aplican en los días gratuitos. Hay más información disponible en //brookfieldzoo.org/visit Crédito de la foto: Brookfield Zoo Chicago



Couple Ties the Knot After Receiving Cook County's First Marriage License of 2025

A South Shore couple who met on a popular dating app were the lucky pair selected to receive the first marriage license of 2025 and were married in a special ceremony Thursday conducted by Cook County Clerk Monica Gordon. Aisha Buford-Morrison, 26, and Terrell Johnson, 28, were the winners in the Clerk's Office annual marriage lottery contest and were joined by family and friends at the ceremony, which was held at the Clerk's Office in downtown Chicago. The couple began dating in 2019 after meeting on Tinder, the poplar online dating application. "I am thrilled to welcome the new year by continuing this cherished tradition with Cook County's first

marriage of 2025," said Clerk Gordon. The Clerk's Office received more than 200 entries for the popular marriage license contest. In addition to being married by Clerk Gordon and receiving the first marriage license of 2025, the winning couple will receive special gifts donated by several Chicago-area signature establishments. The gifts include:

Newlywed Gourmet Dinner Gift Box including Filet Mignon, Strip Steaks, and Lobster Tails provided by Whittingham Meats

- A sparkling wine basket and champagne flutes provided by Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant
- Α Gift Card provided Eli's by Cheesecake

Photo Caption: Bells are ringing for Aisha Buford-Morrison and Terrell Johnson, who received Cook County's first marriage license of 2025.



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Make New Year 'Rezoolutions' at Brookfield Zoo Chicago



Brookfield Zoo Chicago invites the community to embrace New Year

"reZOOlutions" during upcoming free days—including this weekend.

Now through February 27, community members can enjoy free admission at

Brookfield Zoo Chicago from 10a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Below are some ways the Zoo can help community members achieve a variety of "reZOOlutions."

Explore the Tropics as a Staycation

Brookfield Zoo Chicago offers an opportunity to escape the winter blues with experiences that evoke the feeling of a tropical staycation. Guests can marvel at flamingos in the Swamp and watch dolphins at Seven Seas. The Living Coast also offers an immersive underwater world to explore,

including a habitat that recently welcomed more than 75 new fish. Guests can see colorful species like queen angelfish and Spanish hogfish swimming alongside Pistachio the sea turtle.

Feed your Curiosity while Learning from Wildlife

Guests have countless opportunities to engage with the natural world at Brookfield Zoo Chicago. They can observe the fascinating dynamics of pollinators at the new honeybee observation hives or visit koalas Brumby and Willum as they experience their first Chicago winter. Every visit to the Zoo is

an opportunity to deepen your understanding of wildlife and their respective ecosystems. Various program details are available at //brookfieldzoo. org/education.

Brookfield Zoo Chicago is now open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free days take place on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from Jan. 2 through Feb. 27. Parking and attraction fees still apply on free days. More information is available at //brookfieldzoo.org/visit

Photo Credit: Brookfield Zoo Chicago

Una pareja se casa después de recibir la primera licencia de matrimonio del condado de Cook de 2025



Una pareja de South Shore que se conoció en una popular aplicación de citas fue la afortunada pareja seleccionada para recibir la primera licencia de matrimonio de 2025 y se casaron en una ceremonia especial el jueves dirigida por la secretaria del condado de Cook, Monica Gordon. Aisha Buford-Morrison, de 26 años, y Terrell Johnson, de 28, fueron los ganadores del concurso anual de lotería matrimonial de

la Oficina del Secretario y estuvieron acompañados por familiares y amigos en la ceremonia, que se llevó a cabo en la Oficina del Secretario en el centro de Chicago. La pareja comenzó a salir en 2019 después de conocerse en Tinder, la popular aplicación de citas en línea. "Estoy encantada de dar la bienvenida al nuevo año continuando esta preciada tradición con el primer matrimonio del condado de Cook de 2025", dijo la secretaria Gordon. La Oficina del Secretario recibió más de 200 inscripciones para el popular concurso de licencias de matrimonio. Además de casarse con Clerk Gordon y recibir la primera licencia de matrimonio de 2025, la pareja ganadora recibirá obsequios especiales donados por varios establecimientos emblemáticos del área de Chicago. Los obsequios incluyen:

•Una caja de regalo de cena gourmet para recién casados que incluye filete mignon, filetes de lomo y colas de langosta proporcionada por Whittingham Meats

•Una canasta de vino espumoso y copas de champán proporcionadas por Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant

•Una tarjeta de regalo proporcionada por Eli's Cheesecake

Leyenda de la foto: Las campanas están sonando para Aisha Buford-Morrison y Terrell Johnson, quienes recibieron la primera licencia de matrimonio del condado de Cook de 2025.

Illinois Lottery Awards Its First Multi-Millionaire of the Year

An Illinois Lottery player is starting off the new year strong. No, not with a New Year's resolution to hit the gym. The lucky player won a life-changing \$10,000,000 top prize with the Illinois Lottery's scratch-off game \$10 Million. The \$10 million winning scratchoff ticket was purchased at a Speedway gas station in South Elgin, located at 1775 North La Fox Street. This is also a big win for Speedway, as the South Elgin gas station will receive a selling bonus of one percent of the prize amount, or \$100,000. The game had three \$10 million top prizes. The first top prize was won by a lucky player who bought their



winning ticket at Casey's convenience store in Alton in May 2024. The second \$10,000,000 top prize was scooped up in November 2024, after a player bought their winning ticket at Jewel-Osco in Countryside. In 2024, more than 64 million Illinois Lottery winning scratch-off tickets

were sold, netting players over \$1.64 billion in prizes. The Illinois Lottery currently offers a range of Instant Ticket games priced from \$1 to \$50, available at approximately 7,000 retail locations across Illinois. Photo Credit: Illinois Lottery







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La Lotería De Illinois Premia a su Primer Multimillonario Del Año



Un jugador de la Lotería de Illinois está empezando el nuevo año con fuerza. No, no con la resolución de Año Nuevo de ir al gimnasio. El afortunado jugador ganó un premio mayor de \$10,000,000 que le cambió la vida con el juego de raspadito \$10 Million de la Lotería de Illinois. El boleto de raspadito ganador de \$10 millones

se compró en una estación de servicio Speedway en South Elgin, ubicada en 1775 North La Fox Street. Esta también es una gran victoria para Speedway, ya que la estación de servicio de South Elgin recibirá un bono de venta del uno por ciento del monto del premio, o \$100,000. El juego tenía tres premios mayores de \$10 millones.

El primer premio mayor lo ganó un afortunado jugador que compró su boleto ganador en la tienda de conveniencia Casey's en Alton en mayo de 2024. El segundo premio mayor de \$10,000,000 se ganó en noviembre de 2024, después de que un jugador comprara su boleto ganador en Jewel-Osco en Countryside. En 2024, se vendieron más de 64 millones de boletos de raspadito ganadores de la Lotería de Illinois, lo que les dio a los jugadores más de \$1,64 mil millones en premios. La Lotería de Illinois actualmente ofrece una variedad de juegos de boletos instantáneos con precios de \$1 a \$50, disponibles aproximadamente 7,000 puntos de venta minorista en todo Illinois. Crédito de la foto: Lotería de Illinois

New Pathways to Wellness Initiative Looks to Build Enrollment in Graduate Healthcare Programs



Empowering more students, particularly Latine students, to pursue advanced degrees in healthcare is the goal of a new academic initiative from Dominican University. As the recipient of a fiveyear, \$3 million grant from the federal Promoting Post-baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans program, the university is building Pathways to Wellness, a program designed to create new graduate degrees and new post-baccalaureate certificates, better

support graduate students holistically and financially, and increase graduate enrollment and degree completion in Dominican's Borra College of Health Sciences. The Pathways to Wellness program includes the following:

• the design of a new Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling degree to address regional inequities within this field, and the redesign of the university's Master of Health Sciences degree to create a more accessible path to advanced healthcare programs and careers.

- development of postbaccalaureate certificates for high-demand careers in certified drug and alcohol abuse counseling and lab technology. These certificates will be stackable toward the completion of a master's degree.
- improvement of graduate program support services, including mental health services, academic supports, scholarships, emergency aid, and testing and licensure fees.

If you are interested in learning more, visit www. dom.edu.

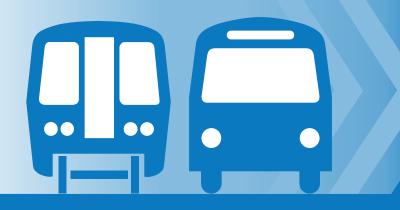
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Por primera vez, la CTA pone en marcha una planificación estratégica global a largo plazo. Es importante que este proceso sea impulsado por **ustedes**: los pasajeros y las comunidades a las que servimos. Responda a una breve encuesta sobre su experiencia con la CTA y qué tipos de servicios de tránsito le gustaría ver en el futuro.

Obtenga más información en transitchicago.com/strategicplan y escanee el código para participar en nuestra encuesta.

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NOTICE INVITATION TO BID TO

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, will be submitted back to the District via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only, from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Chicago time), on the bid opening date, and will be opened publicly as described in the Invitation to Bid by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management or designee at 11:00 AM on the stated bid opening date below for:

CONTRACT 25-408-11

JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE MAIN OFFICE BUILDING COMPLEX

Estimated Cost: \$2,900,000.00 Bid Deposit: NONE

Optional Pre Bid Walk-Through: Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 10:00 am Chicago Time at the Board Room, located on the 1st Floor of the Main Office Building, 100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Voluntary Technical Pre Bid Conference: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 10:30 am Chicago Time via ZOOM Link

Compliance with the District's Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D, Appendix V, and Appendix C, are required on this Contract.

Bid Opening: January 28, 2025

The above is an abbreviated version of the Notice Invitation to Bid. A full version which includes a brief description of the project and/or service can be found on the District's website, **www.mwrd.org**; the path is as follows: Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements.

Specifications, proposal forms and/or plans may be obtained from the Department of Procurement and Materials Management by downloading online from the District's website at www.mwrd.org (Doing Business → Procurement & Materials Management → Contract Announcements). No fee is required for the Contract Documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of the Contract Document should be directed to the following email: contractdesk@mwrd.org or call 312-751-6643.

All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1 et.seq.), where it is stated in the Invitation to Bid Page.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals if deemed in the public's best interest.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago By Darlene A. LoCascio Director of Procurement and Materials Management

Chicago, Illinois January 8, 2025

Illinois DCFS Offers Post-Secondary Scholarships to Current and Former Youth in Care



The Illinois Department of Children and Family (DCFS) Services currently accepting applications for the 2025 DCFS Scholarship Program. Through the program, a minimum of 53 academic scholarships will be awarded to current and former youth in care for the upcoming school year, with four awards reserved for the children of veterans and two awards

presented to students pursuing degrees in social work in honor of Pamela Knight and Deidre Silas, two DCFS caseworkers succumbed who injuries sustained in the line of duty. Scholarship recipients receive up to five consecutive years of tuition and academic fee waivers if they attend an Illinois public university or community college including a monthly

grant of \$1,577 to offset other expenses and a medical card. The DCFS Scholarship Program is available to youth who have an open DCFS case, whose cases were closed through adoption or guardianship or who aged out of care at 18 or older. Applications are available online at https://apply. mykaleidoscope.com/ program/ILDCFS2025. Students are encouraged to submit their applications in advance of the March 31 deadline. Students or caregivers may call the DCFS Office of Education and Transition Services at 217-557-2689 or email DCFS.Scholarship@ illinois.gov with questions about the application process or for more information.



City of Chicago Announces 100 Percent Renewable Energy Milestone

Mayor Brandon Johnson, Department Environment (DOE), and the Department of Fleet and Facility Management (2FM) announced that the City has achieved its goal of transitioning all City facilities and operations to 100 percent renewable energy. With this step, Chicago becomes one of the largest cities in the U.S. sourcing the power for its operations with renewable energy. This milestone was officially

reached on January 1, 2025, following several years of collaboration between the City, nonprofit partner Elevate, retail electricity supplier Constellation, and Swift Current Energy. The project fulfills a longterm advocacy campaign, Ready for 100, led by Sierra Club and local community organizations, to encourage the City to make the transition to renewable energy. As part of the City's energy supply agreement with

Constellation, 70 percent of Chicago's renewable energy will come from Double Black Diamond, a new, 593-megawatt solar generation installation developed by Swift Current Energy in downstate Sangamon and Morgan counties. The remaining 30 percent will come from purchased renewable energy credits. more information about Chicago's renewable energy initiatives as they progress, visit chicago.gov/

North Lawndale's...

Viene de la página 1

and local Lou Malnati's. In August, LCDC celebrated the renovated Lazarus Apartments, 48-unit affordable rental housing development in the North Lawndale neighborhood. The Lazarus Apartments offers 1, 2, and 3-bedroom units, including accessible and adaptable options, with rents ranging from \$700 for a one-bedroom to \$1,100 for a three-bedroom. The project was supported by the City of Chicago, the Illinois Housing Development Authority, Chase Bank, the Steans Family Foundation and the Pritzker Foundation.

"From a personal standpoint it represents the acknowledgment of all that has happened in and to North Lawndale. It represents the journey and the moment of history when

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., identified North Lawndale as the place where he needed to be. He didn't come here because North Lawndale was so great, and it would be a comfortable place for him to have his family. Where he could have his family. He came to North Lawndale because he knew it was the place he absolutely needed to be to fight slum housing and wage his poor people's campaign. The story arc of the neighborhood is such that our journey to thriving, which is where we are hoping to arrive to has been a long one. So "reawakening" is that spark; that seed planted like we have been doing over the course of a year to push us forward. To really begin to blossom and produce in a way that the community

needs to begin to thrive," said Smith.

LCDC offers a homebuyer education course that educates people on the process of becoming a homeowner. There is also a financial coach to help people repair and improve their credit while they are on the path to homeownership. If you are interested in learning more about the LCDC or the next Lawndale United session, visit www.lcdc. net. The "Reawakening North Lawndale" Gala will take place on January 17th from 5:30p.m., to 9:30p.m., at Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th Street. If you are interested in purchasing tickets to the gala, visit www.lcdc.net.

Photo Credit: Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC)

New Laws, Rules Impacting Public Health to Take Effect in 2025

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced that a number of new laws and rules designed to strengthen the public health system will go into effect on New Year's Day, January 1, 2025. One of the key changes taking effect with the new year is a more stringent standard for public health intervention based on the results of testing of blood lead levels in children. Under Illinois law, any child residing in a high-risk ZIP code is to be tested automatically at 12, 24, and 36 months, and all children six years of age and younger are required to be assessed for lead exposure through a questionnaire administered by a pediatrician. Other key laws taking effect in the New Year include:

• SB 3115, sponsored by Sen. Julie Morrison and Rep. Anna Moeller. Requires that when a nursing home undergoes



a change of ownership, the new owner and prior owner must work together to develop and submit a plan of care for residents.

- HB 5429, sponsored by Rep. Camille Lilly and Sen. Laura Fine. Requires assisted living facilities to submit plans for construction or major renovations for approval by IDPH prior to commencing construction.
- HB 3521, sponsored by Rep. Kelly Cassidy and Sen. Karina Villa. Provides that the reporting requirements that apply to hospitals for cases of patient abuse by staff also apply to clinics or other health care providers
- affiliated with hospitals.HB 4667, sponsored by Rep. Anna Moeller

and Sen. Cristina Castro. Imposes new inspection requirements for mobile home parks and changes the fees for licensing mobile home parks.

- SB 2662, sponsored by Sen. Julie Morrison and Rep. Camille Lilly. Prohibits advertising or promoting electronic cigarettes that are designed to fool parents, guardians, teachers, or others into believing that the device is not a tobacco product.
- SB 3350, sponsored by Sen. Laura Ellman and Rep. Tony McCombie. Expands availability and distribution of free fentanyl test strips to help people detect the presence of the dangerous opioid before consuming substances.



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