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Village View

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B-MAC EDITION

Volume 15 | Number 8 | April 20, 2021

Blue Island, Midlothian, Alsip, Crestwood

Hurley Brings Attention to the Conference of Women Legislators Scholarship

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“As a working mother, I understand how hard it can be to prioritize education when you are also providing for your family” said Hurley. “Women who otherwise might not be able to afford an education can now go to school and pur-

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plicants must be Illinois residents and plan to attend an Illinois institution. The deadline is Friday, May 1st, 2021. For more information, women interested can visit: cowl.formstack.com/forms/cowl_scholarship_application.

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ference of Women Legislators and the chair of the scholarship committee, I am excited to bring these opportunities to my District and the entire state of Illinois,” continued Hurley. “When we support other women, we are better the entire state.”

ComEd offers limited time, financial assistance options

ComEd Bill Payment Assistance Program. In April, ComEd will increase the amount of funds available to provide more one-time bill credits of up to \$500, while funds are available. These credits are for eligible residential customers who have outstanding balances or who are looking to reconnect their electric service.

More Flexible Payment Arrangements. Through June 30, ComEd is offering extended payment arrangement plans to eligible households, which allows customers to spread outstanding balances over 18 monthly installments with no money down. Eligible residential customers facing financial hardship who enroll in an 18-month, no money down payment plan will be exempt from disconnection through June 30. All other eligible residential customers with outstanding balances can enroll in an 18-month payment plan with a 10% down payment through June 30.

Service Reconnection Assistance. Through July 10, eligible households that had electric service disconnected for a non-safety reason in 2021 can have their service reconnected

by providing only 25% of their outstanding balance. Any remaining outstanding balance will be rolled into an 18-month, no-money-down payment plan.

The ComEd CARE programs also offer a range of financial-assistance options, while funding is available, to help eligible customers pay their electric bills. There are programs available for residential, small-business customers and nonprofits, as well as activated and deployed members of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, Reserves and honorably discharged veterans.

Any customer experiencing a hardship or difficulty with their electric bill should call ComEd immediately at 1-800-334-7661 (1-800-EDISON1), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to learn more on how to apply. Information on each of these options, along with eligibility requirements, can be found at ComEd.com/PaymentAssistance.

ComEd also offers usage alerts and energy-management tips to help customers manage energy use to save money now and on future electric bills. Visit ComEd.com/OnlineTools.



Members of South Suburban College’s Sustainability Committee and Green Club recently hosted a tree planting ceremony.

South Suburban College helps plant trees for Earth Month

In honor of Earth Month, South Suburban College is pleased to announce its 2020 Tree Campus USA® recognition. Tree Campus USA, an Arbor Day Foundation program, honors colleges and universities and their leaders for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation. SSC was one of just 19 Illinois campuses selected to receive the award.

In a statement from Arbor Day Foundation, “to obtain this distinction, SSC met the five core standards for sustainable campus forestry required by Tree Campus USA, including establishment of a tree advisory committee, evidence of a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree observance and the spon-

sorship of student service-learning projects. Your entire campus community should be proud of this sustained commitment to environmental stewardship.”

If ever there was a time for trees, now is that time. Communities worldwide are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. SSC and its Sustainability Committee continue to work to do its part, now in its third year of Tree Campus recognition.

The SSC Sustainability Committee was established in 2011 to coordinate SSC’s efforts in sustainability leadership within its community. Its number one goal is to educate staff and students about how to practice environmental stewardship at home and in the community.

Marist announces new principal

Marist High School President Larry Tucker ’79 announced recently, that Meg Mathews Dunneback has been appointed the next principal of Marist High School beginning July 1. Dunneback, with more than 20 years of experience, is an accomplished educator with deep ties to the Marist family and local community.

“I am excited to have Meg back at Marist,” Tucker said. “She brings a wealth of experience in different roles and has a true love and appreciation of the Marist family and charism. I know our students and faculty will benefit immensely from her perspective, talents, energy, and the dedication that she will bring our community.”

Dunneback served as an English teacher at Marist from 1995 until 2001. During that time, she worked closely with the late Br. Vito Aresto, FMS in the formation of the school’s Marcellin Program. She went on to become a teacher, facilitator, and dean at Richards High School in Oak Lawn. Since 2014, she has served as the assistant principal for curriculum and instruction. During her time at Richards, Dunneback worked on professional development with teachers to enhance today’s best



practices, impacting diverse learners. She has previously served on a strategic planning committee for Marist, helping map out future for the school.

“I am thrilled and honored to join Marist in this role and with the support of the school community, I am confident that I will be able to make a positive impact in the lives of our Marist students,” Dunneback said. “I look forward to helping each member and student, faculty and staff member plus achieve their educational and professional potential. The Richards High School community has helped me grow into the educator I am today and will always have a place close to my heart.”

Dunneback earned a bachelor’s degree in English from St. Mary’s College in South Bend, Indiana, and a Master of Arts in Administration from Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois. Dunneback’s husband, Jason, is a 1993 Marist graduate. They are current Marist parents.



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FAR SOUTH EDITION

Volume 19 | Number 8 | April 20, 2021

Mokena, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Tinley Park

New Tinley Park Village Board to be sworn in May 3

Congratulations to Mayor-elect Michael Glotz, Village Clerk Kristin Thirion, Trustee Bill Brady and Trustees-elect Dennis Mahoney and Colleen Sullivan, who were all elected into office April 6. They join Trustees Bill Brennan,

Diane Galante and Michael Mueller to comprise your brand-new Tinley Park Village Board.

The new Village Board will be sworn-in at 6:30 p.m. Monday May 3 at the Tinley Park Convention Center, and their first meeting



at Tinley Park Village Hall will be held Tuesday, May 4. Residents can tune-in to watch the inauguration live on the Village's Facebook

page, or they can watch a video of the event afterward on Tinley Park Television (Comcast Channel 4 and U-Verse Channel 99).

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"As a working mother, I understand how hard it can be to prioritize education when you are also providing for your family" said Hurley. "Women who otherwise might not be able to afford an education can now go to school and pursue their educational and occupational dreams thanks to this scholarship. Several women throughout the 35th District have been past winners of this scholarship and I'm excited to see future residents of the 35th receive this scholarship as well."

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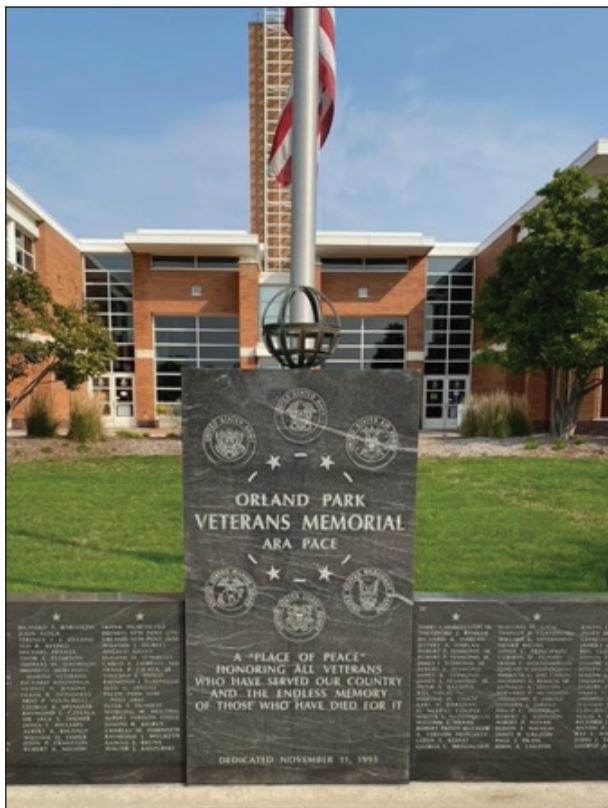
Families invited to add veterans' names to Orland Park memorial

The Village of Orland Park hosts ceremonies each Memorial Day and Veterans Day and invites area families to add their veterans' names to the Village's granite walls bordering the Village's Veterans Memorial, Ara Pace, Place of Peace.

Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 31 with a ceremony at the memorial located in the Village Center at 14700 South Ravinia Avenue.

It is during the Memorial and Veterans Day Ceremonies that the newly added veterans' names are announced as the veteran and their family and friends stand and are recognized.

The last day to add a veteran's name to Orland Park's granite memorial



for this year's Memorial Day Ceremony is May 1.

The cost to add a name is \$250 which covers the

cost of engraving and maintenance of the memorial.

Those who purchase engravings are also eligible for a reduced fee purchase of a Hometown Hero banner (\$100 per banner purchased in conjunction with engraving).

Orland Park's veteran's memorial displays the engraved names of veterans, living and deceased, from across the country who served in all branches and in all wars. Veterans do not have to live in Orland Park.

The form to add a veteran's name is available on the Village's website at www.orlandpark.org.

For more information, call Darryl Wertheim of the Village's Veterans Commission at 708-403-6115.

Mokena's First Spring leaf and branch pick up is Wednesday

The Village of Mokena's first Spring leaf and branch pick-up is set for Wednesday, April 21. This is All Day Event.

Village staff will collect only bagged leaves and branches no longer than 4 feet in length. Regular refuse, grass clippings, and

yard waste will not be collected as part of the free leaf and branch pick-up program.

Leaves may be bagged in either paper or plastic bags, although paper bags are preferred.

Branches should be tied with twine or string. A

branch length of 3 feet or less is optimal.

Refuse totes or drum-type containers should not be used for leaves or branches.

Please fill out the form Official Website (mokena.org) and indicate how many bags of leaves and/

or bundles of branches you have for pick up. Please place your bags and bundles at the curb, but please note that it may take a few days to reach your residence.

Should you have any other questions, feel free to contact us at (708) 479-3900.

Thank You from Mayor Henry L. Kuspa



Thank to you everyone who voted in this year's election. I am looking forward to serving you again for another four years. Being your Mayor of Oak Forest is an honor and responsibility I take very seriously.

Congratulations to Jack Janozik on his win as City Clerk, Rich Simon, Alder-

man Ward 2, Paul Selman, Alderman Ward 4 and James Hortsman, Alderman Ward 6. I would also like to congratulate and welcome new Treasurer, Ericka Vetter. Ericka will replace JoAnn Kelly who decided not to seek reelection in 2021.



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SOUTH SUBURBAN EDITION

Volume 22 | Number 8 | April 20, 2021

Chicago Ridge, Worth, Palos Hills, Palos Park, Palos Heights

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Moraine Valley instructor named Teacher of the Year

Moraine Valley Community College instructor Nooshin Trombetta was honored with the 2021 Arthur J. Stejskal Memorial Teacher of the Year Award from the Illinois Adult Education Association.

Trombetta has been an English as a Second Language (ESL)/Adult Basic Education instructor at the college for the last eight years, teaching different levels of ESL, Citizenship, Critical Thinking and Par-

ents as Educational Partners. She is particularly proficient in working with higher-level ESL students.

“This award belongs to every staff member, teacher and administrator in Learning Enrichment and College Readiness. I could not have done my job without their constant encouragement and guidance. The award is a reminder of the work that needs to be done with our non-English-speaking students



to pave the way for them to lead productive and fulfilling lives in the U.S.,” Trombetta said.

“The best part of my job is when I hear my students have gone on to pursue careers in nursing, teaching and marketing or are

now able to volunteer at their children’s schools and become involved in their communities in meaningful ways. The understanding that I have helped them start their journey to make their dreams and aspirations a reality is inspiring.”

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Northbound Counterflow begins on Central Tri-State (I-294)

Beginning northbound traffic on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between 95th Street and the 83rd Street Toll Plaza is scheduled to be shifted into a counterflow configuration with two lanes traveling on the southbound side for mainline bridge reconstruction as part of the \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project. In addition, lane closures on local roads underneath the Tollway will begin later this month as part of this work.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to changes in traffic patterns

and construction throughout the construction season. Up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway’s Daily Construction Alerts.

“The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring the roadway remains safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of our overall commitment to roadway safety,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We ask drivers to be attentive in work zones by watching for changing traffic patterns and using caution, especially when workers are present.”

Once the counterflow is in place, during the week of April 19, I-294 traffic between 82nd Street and LaGrange Road will be shifted in both directions to provide a work zone for roadway reconstruction and widening work.

Mainline I-294 traffic in the area is scheduled to remain in this configuration through summer. Four lanes of traffic will be maintained in both directions.

In addition, during the week of April 19, on both Roberts Road and 87th Street lane closures will be put in place in both directions underneath I-294 to accommodate reconstruc-

tion of the I-294 mainline bridge over the local roads. On both roads, overnight, full roadway closures with detours will be scheduled to safely accommodate removal and replacement of bridge beams. However, to reduce disruption to traffic in the area, both roads will not be closed at the same time.

Additional lane closures on both I-294 and the local roads will be scheduled as needed throughout the construction season to complete mainline bridge reconstruction.

More information is available at illinoistollway.com.

McCord’s new board members

McCord Gallery & Cultural Center is pleased to introduce our newest board members!

Please join us in welcoming: Daniel J. McCar-

thy, Ronette Leal McCarty, Amanda Neely, Lois Stanciak and Angel Zapata.

We look forward to their collaboration and contributions to McCord!



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SUBURBAN EDITION

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Burbank, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Justice, Oak Lawn

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Jim & Joan Buschbach honored

The community came together recently on 98th & Brandt to honor Jim & Joan Buschbach's dedication to the Village of Oak Lawn by unveiling a honorary street sign in their

name.

Oak Lawn President Sandra Bury, new President Terry Vorderer, Oak Lawn Chamber members, and family were at the dedication.

Moraine Valley student wins speech award, helps team to gold

Moraine Valley Community College Speech and Debate Team co-captain Tyler Orel, of Bridgeview, was awarded the peer-voted Don Haggarty Award while helping his team win a gold medal at the Phi Rho Pi Region IV Tournament recently.

This award is voted on by all competitors and given to the student who best embodies the elements of speech and debate. Three Moraine Valley students have won this honor since 2010.

The Moraine Valley team



finished the regular competitive season winning the overall gold medal at the tournament, which includes any community college in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,

Wisconsin, Ohio, North Dakota and Minnesota. Members of the team include Orel, Noor Awaidah, of Oak Lawn; Trystan Julian, of Crete; Alexis Lyons, of Orland Park; Aidan McGuire, of Mokena; and co-captain Shelby Woody, of Homer Glen.

Orel said he is focused more on his teammates succeeding than him earning an additional award. He didn't quite understand why he was given the honor until Nash explained it was because he stays up until 2 or 3 a.m. to work on speeches

weeks in advance to perfect them, pulls speeches up on his phone anywhere to rewrite, practice or memorize them, and always tries to be the best version of himself.

“I had a mixed reaction to the award because I think my co-captain should've gotten it. I can talk a lot about whatever anyone else has accomplished, but I won't ever take the credit,” Orel said. “I don't need recognition for the work I do. I just want everyone around me to believe in themselves. I love watching people grow around me.”

ComEd offers assistance

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Don't Let Spring Rains Flood Your Future : Be Sure to Invest in Flood Insurance

As Illinoisans welcome April showers and May flowers, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Illinois Department of Insurance (IDOI), Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and local emergency management agencies throughout Illinois are reminding Illinoisans to invest in flood insurance to protect their homes and businesses from flooding emergencies.

Wet spring weather can bring an increased chance of spring flooding, regardless of whether homes and businesses are located near bodies of water. State officials are encouraging Illinois residents to consider flood insurance before the

next flood occurs.

"Just one inch of water in a mid-sized home can cause up to \$25,000 in damages," said IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. "Flood insurance is one of the most important ways for people to financially protect their homes and belongings, allowing them to recover more quickly. But it also is important to act quickly flooding insurance policies typically take up to 30 days to go into full effect."

Flood insurance, if you have it, can provide immediate financial assistance regardless of whether a major disaster is declared by the President of the United States. In 2019, devastating river flooding occurred in

more than 33 counties and impacted 2.1 million residents. Throughout the 2019 flood season, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provided more than \$19.7 million to Illinois homeowners who submitted flood insurance claims.

"Illinoisans need only think back to 2019 to recall flooding along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers for a reminder that the threat of flooding in Illinois is always present. Still, less than 1% of Illinois residents have flood insurance," said IDNR Director Colleen Callahan. "The IDNR administers the NFIP in Illinois to help mitigate some of the risk associated with flooding. The program not only pro-

tect homes and businesses in the event of a flood, but also helps mitigate perennially flooded areas, reducing the risk of flooding in the future. It really is a win-win for both the community and policy holders."

Managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the NFIP enables homeowners, business owners and renters in communities that participate in the program and adopt local floodplain regulations to purchase federally backed flood insurance. Although nearly 90% of communities in Illinois participate in the NFIP, a few communities in Illinois have not adopted local floodplain regulations and

have not enrolled in NFIP.

"Homeowners should purchase flood insurance through the private insurance market if their communities do not participate in the NFIP. An insurer or licensed agent can offer private flood insurance to help protect property and personal belongings," said IDOI Acting Director Dana Popish Severinghaus. "Flooding is the most frequent and costly disaster in the U.S., and private flood policies may provide higher amounts of coverage than the NFIP. Still, homeowners should first find out if they're eligible to purchase a preferred risk policy (PRP) through NFIP which may be available even they

do not live in a floodplain. Our IDOI insurance analysts can help answer questions about purchasing private flood insurance.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) can help you determine whether your property is in a high-risk or a moderate- to low-risk area. These maps can be found online at msc.fema.gov/portal/search. Additional questions can be directed to a FEMA mapping specialist toll free at 1-877-336-2627. To find out if your community is enrolled in NFIP, visit fema.gov/cis/IL.html. For additional information about flood insurance, visit insureonline.org/insureu_special_flood.htm.

Amendment Proposed By U.S. Rep. Newman Passes With Paycheck Fairness Act

U.S. Representative Marie Newman (IL-03) voted to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, critical legislation that strengthens the Equal Pay Act of 1963, helps eliminate the gender wage gap, and guarantees that women can challenge pay discrimination and hold employers accountable.

As part of the legislation passed today, an amendment proposed by Congresswoman Newman

would require employers to display a poster in their workplace and on their employment website to ensure workers clearly understand their rights under the Paycheck Fairness Act.

"The wage gap between men and women isn't just a national issue, it's a local problem. In IL-03, women earn just 82 cents for every \$1 earned by men. And for just women of color this

pay gap is even worse," said Congresswoman Newman.

"The Paycheck Fairness Act builds on the Equal Pay Act and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act by making it harder for employers to pay women less than men for the same work. Passing this legislation would not be enough alone, we also have to ensure workers are aware of their rights under this legislation. That is why my amendment in this bill

requires employers to display a poster in their workplace and on their employment website, so workers clearly understand their rights under this Act."

Under Congresswoman Newman's amendment, employers are required to display a poster with these rights or add the rights to existing posters on employees' rights and display it in a conspicuous location in the workplace. The poster

must either be prepared by or approved by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Secretary of Labor.

Additionally, the notice of these rights must also be posted electronically on an internal website that employees have access to, and the employer must notify employees via the internal website where the physical poster of employees' rights is located in the workplace.



IRS offers help in videos

The IRS is offering virtual tax videos geared at helping small business owners understand and meet their tax obligations. The videos are for new and experienced small business owners.

Lessons include federal taxes and your new business, Schedule C and other small business taxes, and filing and paying taxes electronically.

Visit [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) for more information. See other videos at the IRS YouTube Page.

Pay property tax installment by May 3

Property owners can still pay their First Installment Cook County property tax bills without a late fee through May 3, Treasurer Maria Pappas said recently.

The Cook County Board of Commissioners in November waived for two months the 1.5% per month late fee on all Tax Year 2020 property taxes. Late fees also will be waived for two months for the Second Installment, due later this year.

Retiring interim public works director honored

Elected officials and staff bid retiring Interim Public Works Director Mark Detloff a fond farewell at the Mokena Village Board's recently, honoring him for his notable contributions to Mokena and its growth and progress.

The Board recognized Mr. Detloff with a proclamation honoring his 22 years of professional commitment and loyal service to the residents and businesses of the Mokena community.

Mr. Detloff was first hired as a Public Improvements Inspector in 1998, became



Street Superintendent in 2001, was promoted to the new position of Assistant Public Works Director in 2014, and was named Interim Public Works Direc-

tor when long-time Public Works Director Lou Tiberi retired last May.

During Mr. Detloff's tenure with the Village, Mokena nearly doubled in size into a bustling suburban community with a population now well in excess of 20,000. An instrumental member of the team that brought Lake Michigan water to Mokena in the early 2000s, Mr. Detloff also played a key role in helping modernize Mokena's streets, roadways, and other public works infrastructure to accommodate the town's growth.

Proud member of following 2021 Chambers

Alsip Chamber of Commerce www.alsipchamber.org	www.visitchicagosouthland.com
Bedford Park-Clearing Industrial Association www.bpcia.org	Evergreen Park Chamber of Commerce www.evergreenparkchamber.org
Blue Island Chamber of Commerce & Industry www.blueislandchamber.org	The Hills Chamber of Commerce www.thehillschamber.org
The Burbank Chamber of Commerce www.burbankchamber.com	Justice Chamber of Commerce www.villageofjustice.org
Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau	Oak Forest-Crestwood Area Chamber - The OC Chamber of Commerce www.oc-chamber.org
	Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce www.oaklawnchamber.com

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We have found that through the years of publishing the readers are interested in general information and also local happenings within their community. Therefore because we are fully electronic, we will not be accepting faxed or mailed news releases.

Oak Lawn Village View Newspaper Archive
Explore digitized microfilm from the Oak Lawn Village View. Papers range from 1973 to 2013 and are hosted by the Internet Archive. Look at the Oak Lawn Library website at <https://www.olpl.org/>

Cancer can cause sleep issues you should not ignore

Fighting cancer is not easy. It can be scary and stressful, and cancer can impact nearly every aspect of your life, including your sleep health.

Issues related to cancer and cancer treatment can make it difficult to fall asleep or stay asleep. They can degrade the quality of your sleep. And without proper sleep, your body and mind have a harder time doing just about everything, including fighting off a dangerous disease.

“Sleep is an essential part of everybody’s health,”

said Kaninika Verma, MD, a sleep medicine specialist with OSF HealthCare. “Quantity and quality are both important when it comes to sleep. It aids in the healing process. Good sleep is essential for our overall well-being and health.”

If you aren’t getting proper rest, you should not shrug it off and ignore the problem, especially if you are being treated for cancer.

“We see a lot of people with cancer having sleep issues that need to be dealt

with,” Dr. Verma said.

People who have been diagnosed with cancer can face a lot of stress, which can lead to depression and anxiety. According to Dr. Verma, difficulty either falling asleep or staying asleep can be the result.

Some people also suffer sleeping issues due to their cancer medication. They either have trouble falling asleep, staying asleep or getting restful sleep. And some people sleep too much due to their medication.

Sleep disorders can have

so many different possible causes and sleep can impact every other aspect of a person’s health. That’s why Dr. Verma treats sleep disorders using a multidisciplinary approach that relies on the expertise of other specialists.

Every case is unique, which calls for a personalized plan for every patient. It starts with a sleep evaluation. Then you may work with a psychologist to develop healthy sleeping techniques, or you may need some sort of medical treatment.

“It’s about how much you are sleeping and the quality of the sleep,” Dr. Verma said. “Some medications can cause issues with the quality of sleep. And if you have sleep breathing troubles like sleep apnea, it can make all this even worse.”

Try this at home

Here are some good sleep behaviors you can adopt in your daily life to help you fall and stay asleep, courtesy of Dr. Verma.

Get 7-8 hours of sleep per day. The adult body needs that much sleep to do its daily maintenance

and recharge.

No screens an hour before bed. The blue light from electronic screens makes it harder to shut your mind down.

Have a routine sleep schedule. Condition your brain to sleep at the same time every day.

Practice mindfulness. There are a lot of online apps to help with mind relaxation techniques.

If you are not getting good sleep, you should speak to your primary care provider about a possible referral to a sleep specialist.

Orland Township Holds Third Vaccine Event

Orland Township, in partnership with Jewel Osco pharmacy, recently held its third and largest vaccine distribution event, administering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to more than 2,000 residents, according to the office of Orland Township Supervisor Paul O’Grady.

The Township held this third COVID-19 vaccine distribution at Georgios Banquets in Orland Park, due to the number of residents scheduled to attend.

This third vaccination event initially scheduled residents in Phase 1B and with underlying medical conditions or otherwise eligible under Phase 1C.

With the announcement of most of Illinois opening up vaccines to Phase 2, which includes persons with cancer, diabetes and other underlying medical conditions, as well as clergy, restaurant staff, and workers in energy, legal, retail and transportation and logistics, Orland Township followed suit and opened up appointments to Phase 2 individuals as well. The addition of Phase 2 eligibility resulted in the 2,300 appointment slots quickly filling up.

“Orland Township is proud to continue our partnership with Jewel Osco pharmacy to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to



our residents,” said Supervisor O’Grady. “We will continue this partnership, as vaccines become available, because nothing is more important than the health and safety of our residents.”

Residents still in need of the COVID-19 vaccine can register on Orland Town-

ship’s website, orlandtownship.org. Residents will be notified if more appointments become available.

The first dose of the vaccine was administered recently at Georgios Banquets. Attending residents will return to Georgios for their second dose on Monday, May 3.

Drop off old prescription drugs

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 24. In recognition, residents are reminded that there is a prescription drug drop-off box near the front door at the Tinley Park Police Department, 7850 W. 183rd St. The container is available 24 hours a day and is monitored via video surveillance cameras.

Residents should either remove their personal information from the prescription container or place the pills in a Ziploc bag. Residents can mix any kinds of acceptable pills in one bag.

Accepted items include prescription patches, medications and ointments, as well as over-the-counter medications, vitamins and



medications for pets. Prohibited items include hydrogen peroxide, inhalers, aerosol cans, non-prescription ointments, lotions or liquids; thermometers, needles/sharps and medication from businesses or clinics.

For more information, call the Tinley Park Police Department at (708) 444-5368.

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NaturVet Quiet Moments Calming Aids

(NAPS) Life can be stressful, and just like us dogs and cats can experience stress caused by loud noises, storms, fear, excitement, travel, grooming, separation anxiety, the addition of a new pet to the family, and even some holidays can be stressful!

Solutions are available to help pets manage stressful situations without sedatives. NaturVet Quiet Moments Calming Aids are veterinarian formulated and recommended to help



support the nervous system in reducing stress and tension while promoting rest and relaxation. The unique blend of Thiamine and L-Tryptophan help reduce stress and tension, Melatonin helps to promote rest and relaxation, while the Ginger helps to

support sensitive stomachs which is especially important when traveling. For pet parents looking for hemp-based products, NaturVet now offers Hemp Quiet Moments Calming Aids that contain hemp seed.

Quiet Moments is rec-

ommended to use when traveling by car, plane, or boat; also great for storms, fireworks, travel, grooming, and separation anxiety.

Quiet Moments is available in time-release chewable tablets for dogs, room spray, drops and tasty soft chews for dogs and cats. Manufactured by Garmon Corp., in Temecula, Calif. U.S.A.

For more information on products please visit NaturVet.com or call (888) 628-8783.

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce Recognizes Winners of the Annual Fire and Public Safety Coloring Book Contest

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce recognized winners of the annual Fire and Public Safety Coloring Book contest during the recent Village board meeting.

Representatives from the Oak Lawn Fire and Police Departments were on hand to congratulate the winners who were honored by Village President, Dr. Sandra Bury, during the meeting. Also, in attendance was Eileen Kerlin Walsh, President of the Oak Lawn Chamber, Fire Inspector David Wheeler and Police Chief, David Vittorio.

Following the presentation, the winners and their families gathered in the lobby of the Village Hall for goodie bags sponsored by the Oak Lawn Chamber. A delicious tower of bundlets from Nothing Bundt Cakes was donated for each of the winners.

The 1st place winner received a Family membership to The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn plus a \$25 GC. The 2nd and 3rd place winners received a \$25 GC. Chamber Member Oak Lawn Bank & Trust sponsored the \$25



Back row, left to right: David Wheeler, Fire Department; Mayor Dr. Sandra Bury; Chamber President Eileen Kerlin Walsh, and Dan Vittorio, Chief of Police. Front row, left to right: Michael Wos, 1st Place Fire Safety; Jimena Alvarez, 3rd Place Fire Safety; Aubrey Imala, 2nd Place Fire Safety; Fatima Alkhulaqi, 1st Place Public Safety; and Vincent Rodriguez, 2nd Place Public Safety.

gift certificates. The Family Membership to the Children's Museum for the 1st place winners was donated by The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn.

The student winners are as follow:
 Fire Safety Coloring

Contest (Sponsored by the Oak Lawn Fire Department).

First Place: Michael Wos, Grade 3rd, St. Gerald School.

Second Place: Aubrey Imala, Grade 2nd, St. Linus School.

Third Place: Jimena Alvarez, Grade 2nd, Harnew Elementary School.

Public Safety Coloring Contest (Sponsored by the Oak Lawn Police Department).

First Place: Fatima Alkhulaqi, Grade 1st, Harnew Elementary School.

Second Place: Vincent Rodriguez, Grade K, Harnew Elementary School.

3rd Place: Salma Alqaisi, Grade 3rd, Harnew Elementary School

For more than 30 years the Oak Lawn Chamber has collaborated with the Oak Lawn Fire Department to produce this valuable teaching tool for nearly 4,000 K-4th grade students in the community.

In recent years, the Fire and Police Departments have collaborated on the production of the book. Books are distributed to the students by the Oak Lawn Fire Department during Fire Safety Week in October.

The 1st place drawing from the respective coloring contests will be featured on the cover of the 2021 Fire and Public Safety Coloring Book.



Orland Park Library will stop quarantining materials

The Orland Park Public Library has ended the quarantine requirement for materials returned to the library. Continued research shows that COVID-19 mainly spreads through respiratory droplets in the air, including recent research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The library continues to take several steps to ensure that patrons and staff remain as safe as possible. We require all our staff and patrons

to wear masks at all times while in the library building. See the library's COVID reopening plan: orlandparklibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/OPPL-Reopening-Plan-2_4_2021.pdf.

This change only applies to materials handled by the Orland Park Public Library. Other libraries in the area make their own decisions based on their communities' specific needs. The Reaching Across Illinois Library System, RAILS, ended their quarantine of materials recently.

Water and Sewer Rates Increase in Oak Forest

An increase in water and sewer rates for the City of Oak Forest will begin on May 1, 2021 to cover the cost of operations as well as a 3.3% increase from its suppliers, the City of Chi-

cago and the Village of Oak Lawn. According to city revenue policies, the city's water and sewer fund must be self-supporting.

Tier 1 water volume rate will increase to \$9.81 per

1,000 gallons (\$0.54 increase); Tier 2 water volume rate will increase to \$11.02 per 1,000 gallons (\$0.61 increase); and sewer rate will increase to \$2.18 per 1,000 gallons (\$0.02 in-

crease).

A recent study shows that Oak Forest's utility bills are less than the average bills in comparable communities in most cases.

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Area's hottest rooftop decks, outdoor dining and patio spaces reopen

As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, more and more of the city's favorite rooftop and outdoor dining destinations are opening their doors again to welcome back both spring and customers. Whether it's a fun night out with friends, or for the perfect date-night location, following is a roundup of some of the hottest rooftop and outdoor dining spots Chicago has to offer.

Offshore, the world's largest rooftop deck and one of Chicago's most exciting hotspots located at Navy Pier is thrilled to reopen their doors to the public on Thursday, April 22. Boasting over 56,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space with spectacular views of the Chicago skyline and Lake Michigan, this year-round rooftop destination will again offer locals a truly unique opportunity to enjoy Chicago's upcoming warm months, safely. Signature, Instagramable drinks include a lychee-style cocktail, a fruit-forward cocktail served in a bag, and much more. Parking for Offshore is available in the East Garage located on the North Dock of Navy Pier. For more information, please visit www.drinkoffshore.com.

Kennedy Rooftop, 1551 W. North Ave., is currently serving up specialty drinks and delicious dishes Thursday through Sunday on their spacious deck in Wicker Park. Known for iconic views of the complete city skyline from the John Hancock to the Willis Tower, Kennedy Rooftop is open Thursday from 5 pm to 9 pm, Friday/Saturday 4 pm to 10 pm and Sunday for Brunch from 11 am to 4 pm. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, please visit www.kennedyrooftop.com.

Hornblower Group, a global leader in world-class experiences and transportation, announced the launch of its Chicago cruising operations as City Cruises under City Experiences, the new brand name for the company's water- and land-based portfolio

of offerings. Locals and travelers alike are invited back on City Cruises' luxurious yachts including the Odyssey Lake Michigan, Spirit of Chicago, Chicago Elite, and their newest vessel to join the fleet, Odyssey Chicago River, to enjoy specialty curated cocktails and cuisines, all while taking in the unmatched views of Lake Michigan and the city skyline from the Chicago River. City Cruises offers plated brunch and dinner cruises featuring delicious cuisine alongside a sophisticated selection of award-winning wines, craft beers and specialty cocktails. Cruise prices start from \$86.90 for brunch or \$99.90 for dinner (prices per person, excl. fees & taxes).

Geja's Café, the renowned "Restaurant of Romance" located at 340 W. Armitage, is open for indoor dine in service as well as outside on their patio under their Pergolas seven days a week. Reservations are very limited outside on their recently installed Pergolas and can be made by calling 773.281.9101.

Chicago's favorite pop-up bar, **Replay Lincoln Park**, 2833 N. Sheffield, is bringing back its fan favorite pop-up so everyone can celebrate with their favorite coworkers at "Dunder Mifflin". The wildly popular Back to The Office pop-up returned, and run through Sunday, May 16. Replay Lincoln Park will transform all 9,000 square feet of their space, including their outdoor patio, into iconic spots inspired by the show, and will offer an exclusive selection of Michael Scott-inspired cocktails and a themed food menu for guests to indulge in during their experience. Tickets are now available, and reservations are highly encouraged. Covid-19 restrictions will be practiced, and protocols will be strictly observed to ensure the safety of patrons and employees. Replay Lincoln Park invites guests for great fun from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Thursday, Friday 3 p.m. to 2 a.m., 12 p.m. to 3 a.m. Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sun-

day. For more information, please visit <https://replay-lincolnpark.com>.

Led by Executive Chef Nicholas Malloy, **Thorn Restaurant & Lounge**, located in The Rose Hotel Chicago O'Hare, a Tapestry Collection by Hilton and closest off-airport hotel to O'Hare, offers hotel guests and patrons alike a chic oasis for breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as brunch and late-night cocktails, and includes comfort food favorites, signature Rose items, and Chef's daily specials. For the upcoming holiday, Thorn will be offering an exclusive Mother's Day High Tea on Sunday, May 9 with two seating's available at 11 a.m., and 2 p.m. which includes complimentary parking, live music from Dina Bach, and a curated menu to set the scene of an elevated high tea. The Thorn lounge features plush, comfortable seating areas for those looking to dine in, as well as a patio area for those interested in sitting outside. For more information visit thornrestaurant.com or call 847.260.4774.

Water's Edge, located within The Hyatt Lodge, 2815 Jorie Boulevard in Oakbrook, offers upscale café items including fresh, innovative salads, classic sandwiches, soups and entrees for both breakfast and lunch. Guests also have the opportunity to experience complete relaxation in the Hearth Lounge's intimate, cozy atmosphere. During the summer months, guests can enjoy meals al fresco on the relaxing and serene patio. Hearth Lounge's menu includes superb cocktails as well as gourmet soups and sandwiches, fresh salads, hearty appetizers and delicious desserts. Both venues boast gorgeous views of the property's private lakes and pristine landscaping restaurant and Hearth Lounge are the perfect place to sip cocktails or enjoy lunch and dinner. Patrons can also opt to book Hyatt's Lakeside Private Parties which can cater to up to 40 guests. For more information, please call 630.568.1234 or visit

their website.

With new Executive Chef, Jonathan Harootunian, **Fulton Market Kitchen** is set to reopen with a brand-new menu on April 8. Located in the vibrant Fulton Market District, guests can enjoy either outdoor or indoor dining at the part restaurant part art gallery crossover and try 4-Star Rated Chef Harootunian's seasonal menu, in addition to locally-sourced cocktails. Located at 311 N. Sangamon, FMK is open Thursday through Sunday, and offers a delicious brunch menu on the weekends. To learn more about FMK or to make a reservation, please visit www.fultonmarketkitchen.com.

Sicily meets South Loop at **Pacino's**, the authentic Italian eatery located within Roosevelt Collection Shops at 1010 S. Delano Ct. Led by Executive Chef Michael Serratore, Pacino's offers a wide range of classically inspired antipasti, pizza, salads, seafood, fresh pastas and more. Enjoy signature cocktails or a glass of vino at the full bar indoors or pull up a seat under the outdoor pergola for an amazing outdoor dining experience. Pacino's is open for dinner Tuesday-Sunday from 5 pm-10 pm. To make a reservation or place an order, diners can visit their website.

Known as one of the hottest rooftop spots in Chicago, **AIRE** features 360-views from the 24th floor of Hyatt Centric the Loop Chicago. This rooftop deck serves as the perfect urban atmosphere for both Chicago residents and tourists alike to enjoy. AIRE has made its mark on the Chicago dining and drinking scene. The regular food menu at AIRE carries an array of flatbreads, appetizers, and salads. The beverage program at AIRE serves up a variety of specialty crafted cocktails, craft beer, draft beer, and wine. AIRE is open Monday through Wednesday 3:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Thursday through Saturday 3:30 p.m. to 12 a.m., Sunday Closed. To learn more please visit their website or call 312.236.1234.



Brett Beiner Photography

Mercury Theater Chicago Introduces New Artistic Director

Mercury Theater Chicago announces reopening with new leadership. Mercury Theater owners have restructured for the future and are preparing the theater for a reopening. With this announcement comes exciting new leadership. Mercury Theater Chicago introduces Christopher Chase Carter as Artistic Director.

Carter returns to Mercury Theater Chicago where he collaborated on the hit productions of Little Shop of Horrors and the Jeff Award nominated musical Hair. Originally from Muskegon, Michigan, Carter began his theater career in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he attended Grand Valley State University on scholarship. In 2005

Carter studied at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy in Los Angeles. He continued his studies at the Edna Manley School in Kingston, Jamaica which inspired him to establish the Christopher Carter Arts Scholarship for underprivileged artists. Recently in Chicago, Carter has collaborated on the world-premiere musical Skates and is preparing to choreograph Children of Eden. He has been nominated and received the Joseph Jefferson Award, the Black Theater Alliance Award, Broadway World Award, the Black Excellence Award, and the Grand Rapids 'Grand' Award.

During the months ahead, Artistic Director Carter will layout his exciting new vision for the future of Mercury Theater Chicago. "Mercury Theater Chicago will offer a platform for artists of all backgrounds to tell

stories unapologetically," states Carter. "We will create art that represents the world in which we live. I am determined to create a safe and fair environment while focused on equality and inclusivity. We look forward to welcoming and supporting a new generation of artists. At Mercury Theater Chicago, we hear you and we see you. I am excited about the evolution of performance and artistry in this ever-changing great city. And I am excited to reveal our ambitious season in the coming months."

In July 2020, it was announced that Mercury Theater Chicago would close permanently. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the theater owners received unsolicited offers to purchase, but they held onto the property. "I have a unique responsibility, a stewardship, with this arts center," explains Executive Producer Walter Stearns. "When we closed, we shut down every expense with the hope that someday we would be able to re-open in better times. By conserving resources along with federal support and refinancing, we have been given the opportunity to remake theater into something better for the future. I am extremely excited for the new ideas, vitality and passion brought by our new artistic leadership."

Mercury Theater Chicago is committed to opening when it is safe to do so. Pending a new agreement with Actors' Equity Association, Mercury Theater Chicago is committed to producing first-rate, professional live theater under the safest conditions possible.

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Social Engagement

(NAPSI) Maintaining social connections and staying mentally and physically active is key to reducing social isolation and loneliness among older adults, particularly now during the COVID-19 national health crisis.

There are many opportunities for older adults and caregivers to remain engaged and connected to their family, friends and community with and without technology during the pandemic. Here are a few suggestions all of us might consider doing during this time:

Reach out. Try to call a family member or friend every day, write them a note or send a card.

Stay active, mentally and physically. Move more and sit less. Engage in physical activity such as a walk or online group exercise classes.

Flex your brain. Draw a sketch, write a poem or short story, or start journaling.

Create connections using



Remaining socially engaged improves the quality of life for older adults and is associated with better mental and physical health.

technology. Use online tools to connect with friends and family. Attend virtual events and concerts or tour museums from home. Read a book online.

Volunteer and share your skills from home. Develop a virtual mentoring relationship with a student through a local college or connect with your local Area Agency on Aging to find opportunities to help others.

Through its website, www.eldercare.acl.gov, and national Call Center at 1-(800)-677-1116, the Eldercare Locator can inform and connect older adults and caregivers to local programs and services that provide a variety of ways to stay connected to others in their communities to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

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ICC Reminds Illinoisans: Call 811 (JULIE) before Digging

April is National Safe Digging Month. The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is reminding homeowners and excavators to call 811 before beginning any outdoor project that requires digging.

"As you plan your home and garden digging projects this Spring, to avoid hitting any utility lines, please call 811 to have them marked before you start. This is a free service, but you must call," said ICC Chairman Carrie Zalewski.

Illinois law requires residents and professional excavators to call 811 at least

48 hours or two working days prior to starting the excavation. Whether you plan to plant a tree, install a mailbox, plant a garden, or build a deck, regardless of the depth and size of the project you must call 811. The project must begin within 14 calendar days from the call, and locate requests have a 28-day life.

The State One-Call Center, managed by JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) and DIGGER within the City of Chicago, is a twenty-four-hour service network system established

to prevent contractors and private citizens from hitting any existing utility lines when digging.

In 2020, ICC staff issued 82 warnings and 219 citations for safe digging violations resulting in \$709,590 penalties. Violations issued to excavators and homeowners included not having a valid locate request, or not digging carefully around marked underground facilities, and for utilities, failure to mark their facilities in a timely manner. The ICC levied penalties as part of its One-Call enforcement efforts.

In consideration of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, homeowners and excavators are reminded to follow CDC guidelines when interacting with one another by practicing social distancing and wearing a mask. You might also consider postponing any non-essential projects until the public health emergency has passed.

For more information, visit the ICC's website at www.icc.illinois.gov or JULIE's website at <https://www.illinois1call.com/> or 811 Chicago <https://ip.cityofchicago.org/digger>.

Electronics Recycling April 24

Bremen Township will host an Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, April 24 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Bremen Township Senior/Youth Complex at 15350 Oak Park Avenue in Oak Forest.

There will be no charge for small appliances, but

there will be a charge for the following items: \$15 Computer Monitor OR Microwave Oven, \$25 TV up to 20", \$35 TV over 21", and \$60 Console or Projection TV.

Cash or checks payable to: Bremen Township.

For more information, contact 708-687-8220.

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They can advise you on your eligibility for other state and local programs and offer information about how work affects those programs. Social Security also offers Work Incentives that may make it possible to explore work and still receive some or all of your benefits and Medicare or Medicaid coverage. Ticket Program service providers can help you understand Work Incentives like the Plan Achieve Self-Support (PASS). PASS lets you use income or assets to achieve a work goal, while providing SSI benefits to help you meet your living expenses.

The road to financial independence typically starts with making a budget, which helps you to keep track of your money, prioritize spending and set

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financial goals. Ticket Program service providers can offer financial counseling or connect you with another organization that can help. Once you have a job, good savings habits are key to becoming financially independent. If your disability began before age 26, you may be eligible to contribute to an ABLE Account, a tax-advantaged account that can fund disability-related expenses.

For more information about the Ticket Program and how to find providers who can help you on the path to financial independence, call the Help

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Wanted

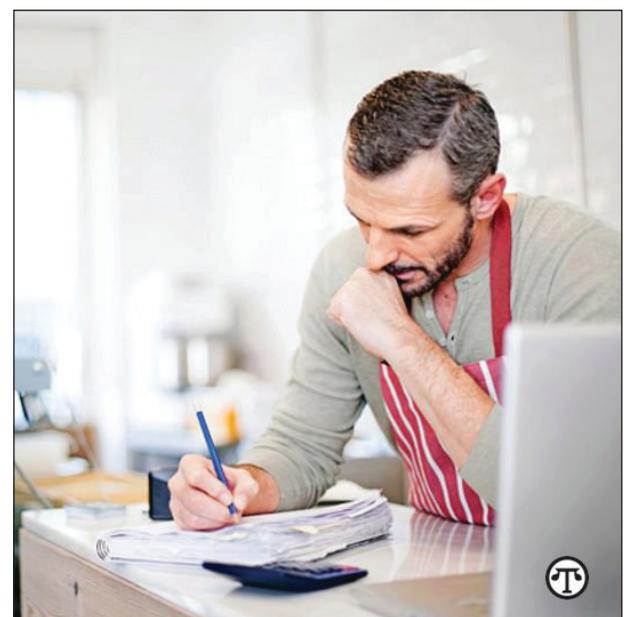
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Pave Your Road To Financial Independence With A Ticket To Work Service Provider

(NAPSI) This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This law mandates equal opportunities for people with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the public. In observing this legal milestone, we recognize that employment is a key step toward financial independence. Having a job and earning a paycheck can put you in a better posi-

tion to make financial decisions to build your future. Social Security's Ticket to Work (Ticket) Program provides free employment services and supports to disability beneficiaries ages 18 through 64. In addition to services that promote personal savings, improve money management and budgeting, many Ticket Program service providers offer benefits counseling to help you understand how working will affect your benefits.



Line at 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET. You can also visit choosework.ssa.gov and use the self-service Find Help tool to locate approved providers.

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