



## Noticiero Bilingüe **LAWNDALE** Sunday, December 29, 2019 *NEWS*

**WEST SIDE TIMES**



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# New Year's Eve Celebrations



*Compiled by  
Ashmar Mandou*

### **Crystal Gardens New Year's Eve**

To see and be seen in a stunning space, hit up **Crystal Gardens New Year's Eve**, where you'll find special guest DJs and more than 20 premium liquor bars. Nosh on hors-d'oeuvres and signature dishes at various food stations, and step out on

the private terrace to watch those fabulous fireworks. *Tickets start at \$99.*

### **Fireworks**

No New Year's celebration in Chicago would be complete without a trip to **Navy Pier**. Enjoy all the entertainment, rides and attractions at this family-friendly destination, and at midnight, watch a kaleidoscope of fireworks perfectly synchronized to inspiring music over Lake

Michigan. Free.

**Chicago's New Year's Eve Blast** will light up the Chicago River with a free fireworks display on Dec. 31. As the clock strikes midnight, a mile-long fireworks show will launch from bridges and barges down the Chicago River to welcome in the New Year. Grab a spot on the Chicago Riverwalk, at set viewing locations, or at nearby partner events and

watch the show.

### **New Year's Eve Party at Drake Hotel**

One of the biggest New Year's Eve parties in town, The Drake's famed NYE blowout is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Guests can enjoy five ballrooms of entertainment, premium top-shelf liquor at more than 40 fully staffed bars, a breathtaking balloon drop, and a champagne toast at

midnight inside a historic Chicago hotel. Tickets start at \$139; **Drake Hotel**, 140 E. Walton Place

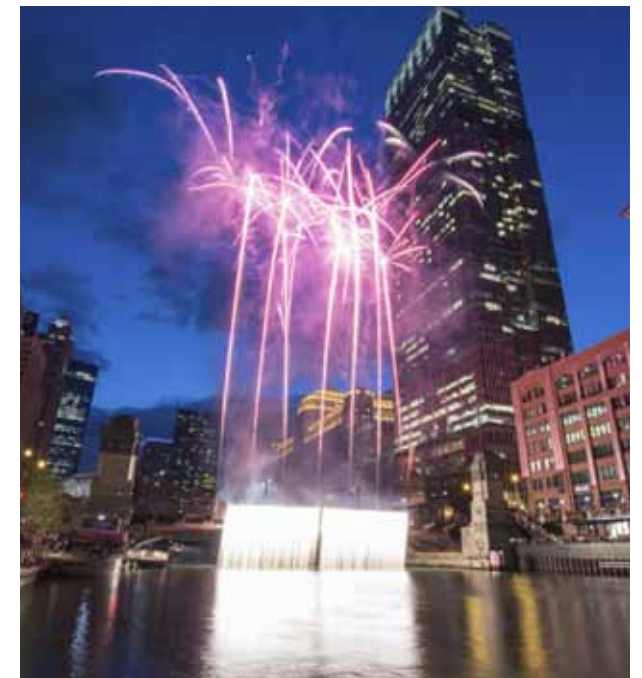
### **NYE Soiree at JW Marriott**

This **NYE Soiree** rings in the New Year in the luxury hotel designed by legendary Chicago architect Daniel Burnham. The four-hour all-inclusive package includes multiple rooms of entertainment, featuring live music from the city's hottest DJs and cover bands. Plus, party-goers get discounted room rates. Tickets start at \$119; **JW Marriott**, 151 W.

Adams St.

### **Teatro ZinZanni**

This critically-acclaimed show combines the best of cirque, cabaret, spectacle, live music, comedy, and fine dining. In addition to a four-course dinner theatre experience, the New Year's Eve performance will host a vibrant pre- and post-show celebration for audience members with dancing and a complimentary sparkling wine toast at midnight. Tickets start at \$239, **Teatro ZinZanni**, 32 W. Randolph





# New Laws Coming into Effect in 2020



The City of Chicago, along with various City Departments and agencies, is informing Chicago residents, workers and visitors of major new local laws and regulations that will come into effect in 2020. These new laws include:

regulations for ensuring safe and responsible implementation of adult-use cannabis; first steps to address Chicago's downtown congestion; the implementation of important protections for Chicago's workers; process improvements to support small business owners; and more. The following new laws will come into effect in 2020:

## **Legalization of Adult Use Cannabis**

Starting January 1, 2020, adult-use cannabis will be

legal throughout the State of Illinois. Recreational cannabis will be available for purchase by individuals 21 years of age and older at State-licensed dispensaries, with zoning requirements in place to ensure equal distribution of dispensaries across the City. Mayor Lightfoot has also launched the Cannabis Facts Chicago program to provide cannabis health and safety tips for all Chicagoans and has proposed a Cannabis Consumption License to allow for safe, designated consumption sites. Additionally, the passage of the Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax ordinance, which will impose a three percent tax on all cannabis retailers in the City, will go into effect on January 1st.

## **Congestion Tax**

To address rampant congestion downtown and encourage sustainable shared rides throughout the City, Mayor Lightfoot's landmark congestion tax will go into effect in 2020. This new tax structure will address the significant role played by the growth of ride-hailing services in the congestion plaguing Chicago. Beginning on January 6th, the tax for all trips on Transportation Network Providers (Uber, Lyft or Via) will change, from \$0.72 per trip to \$1.25 for a single trip and \$0.65 for a shared trip. Trips in the downtown area during weekdays from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, when other transportation options are plentiful, will see an additional downtown

surcharge of \$1.75 per trip for single rides and \$0.60 per trip for shared rides.

## **Restaurant Tax**

Beginning in January 2020, the City will impose a modest restaurant tax increase on all food and beverages sold at retail establishments, putting Chicago on par with neighboring cities. The current tax of .25 percent will increase by an additional .25 percent to .50 percent. The increase will put Chicago on par with or below the restaurant tax assessed at neighboring suburbs, and is expected to generate an additional \$20 million in 2020 and on an ongoing annual basis. The amended tax rate reflects the first increase since the tax was implemented in 2004.

## **Parking Meters**

Also beginning on January 1, new parking meter fees will be enacted following City Council approval earlier this year. The new fee rate structure will call for a 50 cent increase in the downtown area, as well as changes in the West Loop including the installation of new parking meters and a rate increase from \$2 per hour to \$4.50 per hour to align with rates throughout the downtown area. These increases are consistent with the Congestion Tax Zone for ride-hailing fees and are designed to reduce "true up" obligations to the parking meter operator.

## **Fast Track Signs**

Starting March 1, 2020, the Fast-Track Business Sign Program will remove barriers to obtaining a sign permit by allowing businesses to apply for a basic on premise sign at the same time as their business license. This will eliminate a complicated procedure and expedite the process for business owners to obtain certain sign permits from several months to the day they get a business license.

## **Utility Billing Relief Pilot Program**

The new Utility Billing Relief Pilot Program will launch on April 1, 2020, offering owners of a single family or two-unit residents who are eligible to participate in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to reduce the cost of water and sewer service, and to pay off any outstanding debt in an affordable way. For more information on how to qualify for the Billing Relief Program and other debt relief reform programs enacted by Mayor Lightfoot, residents are encouraged to visit [www.chicago.gov/newstartchicago](http://www.chicago.gov/newstartchicago)

## **Fair Workweek**

Chicago's workers will for the first time receive the benefits of a predictable schedule starting July 1, 2020. Mayor Lightfoot's landmark and expansive

legislation will provide relief to hundreds of thousands of workers by ensuring fair scheduling policies for workers in the following industries: Building Services; Healthcare; Hotels; Manufacturing; Restaurants; Retail; and Warehouse Services. Starting July 1, employees earning no more than \$26/hour or \$50,000/year for an employer in those industries with more than 100 employees (250 for a non-profit or restaurant) will be covered by the ordinance.

## **Minimum Wage**

On July 1, 2020, hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans will get a raise. On that day, Chicago's minimum wage will increase to \$14 an hour, reaching \$15 an hour by 2021, four years before the State of Illinois. Furthermore, Mayor Lightfoot's Minimum Wage Ordinance will extend minimum wage protections to numerous groups that were previously exempt. Beginning July 1, 2020, youth under the age of 18 and employees in "Learners" and Subsidized Transition Employment Programs will be covered for the first time, receiving a raise to \$10 an hour on the path to \$15 an hour by 2024. Also on July 1, the minimum wage for tipped workers will increase to \$8.40 an hour, 60 percent of the minimum wage.

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## Pritzker Administration Secures \$40.2 Million Federal Preschool Development Grant

In line with Governor JB Pritzker's vision of making Illinois the best state in the nation for families raising young children, the Pritzker administration announced it has secured \$40.2 million in federal funding over the next three years to improve early childhood programs across Illinois. From 2020 through 2022, the state will receive \$13.4 million per year from the Preschool Development Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Renewal Grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The competitive federal program supports states' efforts to build early childhood program infrastructure and expand high-quality preschool programs in targeted



communities that would serve as models for expanding preschool to all 4-year-olds from low- and moderate-income families. The award comes with a 30 percent

cost-sharing commitment with non-federal funds and can be used to strengthen coordination within the mixed-delivery system, improve program quality or expand services.

## Pritzker Administration Launches New Training Program to Increase Minority Presence in Film Industry



The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) plans to invest \$500,000 through the Illinois Film Office Workforce Training Program to enable more women and minorities to access job opportunities within the film industry. As the industry grows, more minority groups are moving toward film production as a career, making up 49 percent of the accredited productions in the state.

To keep this momentum going, DCEO's new job training program will train and graduate regular cohorts of new film and TV production workers annually through program to be adopted by qualified institutions, colleges, and universities through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The state-wide training program will position qualified and trained minorities to land entry-level positions on

productions across the state and would add 2,500 new minority crew positions over a 10-year period. A recent study shows that across motion picture video production, distribution, and tele/post-production services in Illinois, the average annual pay was \$73,686 in 2018, which is higher than the average annual pay of \$59,941 across all industries. The application submission deadline is 5:00pm CST on 1/9/2020.



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# Making Your Resolutions Stick



By: Ashmar Mandou

It can be daunting when your list of New Year's Resolutions is as long as your holiday shopping list. In addition to the post-holiday slump, not being able to keep your resolutions by February, March or even late January may increase your anxiety. However, it is important to remember that the New Year isn't meant to serve as a catalyst for sweeping character changes. It is a time for people to reflect on their past year's behavior and promise to make

positive lifestyle changes. **Start small** Make resolutions that you think you can keep. If, for example, your aim is to exercise more frequently, schedule three or four days a week at the gym instead of seven. If you would like to eat healthier, try replacing dessert with something else you enjoy, like fruit or yogurt, instead of seeing your diet as a form of punishment. **Change one behavior at a time** Unhealthy behaviors develop over the course of time. Thus, replacing

unhealthy behaviors with healthy ones requires time. Don't get overwhelmed and think that you have to reassess everything in your life. Instead, work toward changing one thing at a time. **Talk about it** Share your experiences with family and friends. Consider joining a support group to reach your goals, such as a workout class at your gym or a group of coworkers quitting smoking. Having someone to share your struggles and successes with makes your journey to a healthier

lifestyle that much easier and less intimidating. **Don't beat yourself up** Perfection is unattainable. Remember that minor missteps when reaching your goals are completely normal and OK. Don't give up completely because you ate a brownie and broke your diet, or skipped the gym for a week because you were busy. Everyone

has ups and downs; resolve to recover from your mistakes and get back on track. **Ask for support** Accepting help from those who care about you and will listen strengthens your resilience and ability to manage stress caused by your resolution. If you feel overwhelmed or unable to meet your goals

on your own, consider seeking professional help. Psychologists are uniquely trained to understand the connection between the mind and body. They can offer strategies as to how to adjust your goals so that they are attainable, as well as help you change unhealthy behaviors and address emotional issues.



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## Saint Anthony Receives Special Delivery

Pediatric patients at Saint Anthony Hospital received a special visit from a local family who delivered more than 1,000 toys this holiday season. Tom and Lucy Sanchez, relatives and friends collect and deliver toys each year in memory of their late son, Tommy Sanchez. Tommy was diagnosed with germ cell cancer at the age of 17 and after numerous hospital stays promised to give back to pediatric patients and bring hope to children and families during what could be difficult times. Sadly,

Tommy lost his battle with cancer and was unable to see his wish come true. Since Tommy's passing in 2013, the Sanchez family vowed to fulfill his last wish and started "Tommy's Gifts" to bring joy to children in hospitals during the holidays. This is the fourth year, the family

has partnered with Saint Anthony Hospital. After several area hospitals have closed their pediatric inpatient units over the last couple of years, Saint Anthony Hospital pediatrics has remained open to support children and families on Chicago's southwest side.





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Las plantaciones de árboles necesitan poca supervisión durante su crecimiento, por ello es que esta es una oportunidad inmejorable para residentes en el extranjero.

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Es una oportunidad de inversión inmejorable. Ud. puede recuperar su inversión en tan solo un par de años con una plantación de cacao o bien a lo más en 4 años si es una plantación de balsa.

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