



*Noticiero Bilingüe*

# LAWNDALE news

*Sunday, October 29, 2023*

**WEST SIDE TIMES**



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ESTABLISHED 1940

## Attorney General Raoul Files Lawsuit Against Meta for Business Practices that Harm Children



Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced that his office filed a lawsuit against Meta Platforms Inc. (Meta), the company that owns and operates Facebook and Instagram, for its harmful business practices targeting children. The lawsuit, backed by a broad, bipartisan coalition of 33

states, was filed on Tuesday in the federal district court for the Northern District of California. In their lawsuit, Raoul and the attorneys general allege that Meta's business model, which seeks to capture as much user time and attention as possible to sell advertising, has targeted youth, including

teenagers and even younger children, in ways that take advantage of them. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicide is the second-leading cause of death among youth between the ages of 10 and 14. During the decade since Instagram's rise in popularity, the CDC

reported that the number of high school students who experience feelings of persistent sadness and hopelessness, and suicidal thoughts and ideation increased by 40 percent. In that same time period, there was a 30 percent increase in the rate of high school girls who attempted suicide.

Raoul and the coalition allege that Meta designed its social media platforms to include features that exploit young users' psychological vulnerabilities to keep them using the platforms longer, and that many of these product features are strongly linked to damaging psychological outcomes. According to the surgeon general, eighth and tenth graders now spend an average of three-and-a-half hours per day on social media. In Illinois, nearly a million Illinois teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 access Instagram every month. From 2020 to 2021 in Illinois alone, over half a million Illinois teenagers

between the ages of 13 and 17 accessed Instagram every day. Raoul's lawsuit alleges that Meta violated the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) by collecting the personal information of children under the age of 13 without obtaining parental permission as required by that statute. The coalition is asking the court to enter an injunction stopping Meta from continuing these unlawful practices. Raoul urges individuals in crisis to call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline or call 911. **Photo Credit: Office of the Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul**







## Red Jacket Optional Gala Supports Uniting Voices’ Free Music Programs in 88 Chicago Schools

Hundreds of Chicagoans gathered to support Uniting Voices Chicago (formerly Chicago Children’s Choir) at their Red Jacket Optional gala, hosted at The Geraghty on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Uniting Voices’ transformative youth empowerment and music education programs serve thousands of students from every neighborhood in Chicago and beyond. The \$1.5M raised last night’s inspirational gala supports music programming, offered free

of charge to students, in 88 Chicago schools. Red Jacket Optional (RJO) is Uniting Voices Chicago’s largest annual fundraiser and one of Chicago’s most successful galas. In the past 10 years, RJO has raised more than \$14.5M, which funds Uniting Voices’ exemplary music education programming that emphasizes holistic learning to nurture social-emotional development and produce positive outcomes, including a 100 percent high school graduation

and college acceptance rate. The night featured vibrant performances by Uniting Voices members, ages 6-18, including show-stopping renditions of Broadway classics, original music, and songs from around the world. With culinary delights from Boka Catering Group, an open bar, access to a live auction with premium experiences, and an epic afterparty, the evening was a night to remember, all in support of Chicago’s youth. **Photo Credit: Uniting Voices Chicago**

## Local Art Contest Celebrates Creativity and the Environment, Sponsored by Rep. Rashid



State Representative Abdelnasser Rashid, D-Bridgeview, is encouraging local elementary school students to share their artistic talent and raise awareness of important environmental issues by participating in his 21<sup>st</sup> District Art Contest. Rashid is encouraging local students to submit artwork bringing awareness to issues surrounding the environment and climate change. The theme of

the contest is “No Time to Waste.” Students are responsible for creatively incorporating this theme into their original artwork. The top submission will be displayed in Rashid’s Springfield office where legislators and other policymakers can view it. Three runners up will have their work displayed in Rashid’s Berwyn office. The contest is open to kindergarten through fifth grade students in the 21st

District, which includes portions of Chicago’s southwest side, as well as Bedford Park, Berwyn, Bridgeview, Brookfield, Cicero, Countryside, Hodgkins, Justice, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, North Riverside, Riverside, and Summit. For more information about the how to submit artwork, please visit [reprashid.com/art-contest](http://reprashid.com/art-contest) or contact Rashid office at 708-956-7563 or at [office@reprashid.com](mailto:office@reprashid.com).

## JUEGA CON PROPÓSITO



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# Learn How to Clear Your Cannabis Record for Free at WRLL Family Care Expo

Leaders from New Leaf Illinois will be at the WRLL Family Care Expo to share how the program can help people clear past cannabis convictions off their records. New Leaf Illinois is a statewide network of nonprofit organizations, funded by the state of Illinois that provides free cannabis expungement legal services. “We’re thrilled to sponsor WRLL’s Family Care Expo. New Leaf Illinois helps people through each step of the legal process so they don’t have to carry around the burden of a cannabis charge anymore,” said Beth Johnson, New Leaf Illinois program manager. The free WRLL Family Care Expo will take place on Saturday, October 28, at Instituto del Progreso Latino located at 2520 S. Western in Chicago, from



10a.m., to 3p.m. At the Expo, New Leaf Illinois legal experts will have a table with informational materials and attendees will be able to register for free legal services. Since its launch in 2020, New

Leaf Illinois has helped more than 4,000 residents across the state clear their cannabis records and get a fresh start. For more information, visit [newleafillinois.org](http://newleafillinois.org), or call (855) 963-9532.

# Grace and Peace Church Holds Community Fall Festival Event

The Grace and Peace Church brought the pumpkin patch to Chicago’s Austin neighborhood with an outdoor fall celebration. The event served many of the migrant families recently relocated from Venezuela, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and other countries that the church has been providing resources and support to. At the event, attendees got to enjoy activities including a petting zoo, bounce house, pony rides and more, thanks to event sponsor DoorDash, who provided \$4,000 to support the event. The event was held at the Grace and Peace Church Revive Center, a space dedicated to unlocking the potential in and with the surrounding Austin community. DoorDash previously partnered with Grace and Peace Church to sponsor their Back to School event and giveaway in August, as well as their Easter Eggstravaganza



in April. DoorDash has partnered with a wide variety of organizations in Chicago providing access to opportunity, including the Good Hope Free Will Baptist Church, Greater Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, the Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce,

Heartland Alliance’s NEON Program, John A. Hamline Elementary School, South Side YMCA, Ravenswood Elementary, Sarah’s Circle, TCA Health and more.

**Photo Credit: Grace and Peace Church**



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# Cook County Medical Debt Relief Initiative Abolishes over \$280 Million in Medical Debt for Cook County Residents

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle announced Cook County’s Medical Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) has successfully acquired and abolished a total of \$281.3 million in medical debt to benefit 158,541 Cook County residents since the program launched in 2022. The most recent round of debt abolishment was made possible by UChicago Medicine. Cook County worked with its program administrator RIP Medical Debt, a national non-profit, to purchase medical debt from UChicago Medicine and forgive \$173.7 million for 85,060 patients who received care at the University of Chicago Medical Center in Hyde Park, the University of Chicago Physicians Group or UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial Hospital in Harvey, IL. On average, each UChicago Medicine patient saw \$2,043 in



debt relief, with over 75 percent of patient households reporting annual incomes below \$51,000. The program is funded by \$12 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. To administer MDRI, Cook County partners with RIP Medical Debt, a national, independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Through the partnership, RIP Medical Debt contacts hospitals and health systems serving Cook County and negotiates the sale or donation of portfolios of medical debt. Individuals who qualify for medical debt abolishment through MDRI must live in Cook County, have incomes up to 400 percent of the current Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG), or have medical debt that is 5 percent or more of their annual income. Medical debt abolishment cannot be requested by an individual. Eligible patients will have debt erased without taking any action. Recipients are notified by mail that their debts have been relieved, and any negative marks on their credit reports associated with this debt are removed. To learn more about MDRI, go to [arpa.cookcountyil.gov/medical-debt-relief-initiative](https://arpa.cookcountyil.gov/medical-debt-relief-initiative)

## **PUBLIC NOTICE** **INVITATION TO BID** **Clyde Park District, Cook County** **For** **Parkholme Pool Project 2023**

**Due: No later than 10:00 a.m. on November 6, 2023**

Notice is hereby given that Clyde Park District (the “Park District”) will receive sealed bids for leak repairs and liner replacement at the Parkholme Pool (the “Pool”) located at 1820 S. 51st. Street, Cicero, IL 60804.

The bidder must also be bonded and insured and present proof of the same. The bidder shall also submit a sworn notarized statement that they will comply with the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act, including but not limited to reporting as required by law. (820 ILCS 130/2, *et seq.*) The bidder shall also include the cost of obtaining all permits for the project.

A bidder may choose to bid on work associated with both the “Leak Repair” and “Liner Replacement” projects, or bidder may bid on each project individually. Descriptions of the requested projects are set forth below:

### **Leak Repair**

- 1) Sawcut, demolish, and remove concrete at the pool’s main drain line located in a tunnel;
- 2) Repair the main drainpipe and test the line to ensure proper flow and use; and
- 3) Prepare areas for new concrete, including, but not limited to:
  - i. Ensuring the ground is level and properly graded to facilitate proper drainage away from the pool;
  - ii. Excavating the area;
  - iii. Compact the soil to create a stable and even base;
  - iv. Constructing formwork;
  - v. Laying compacting a subbase layer of gravel or crushed stone;
  - vi. Installing expansion joints or isolation joints along the edges of the concrete area;
  - vii. Coating existing reinforcement and adding reinforcement, if necessary;
  - viii. Ensuring proper curing to keep concrete moist and prevent cracks; and
  - ix. Applying sealing, if determined necessary.
- 4) Clean up the site and dispose of any waste materials.

### **Liner Replacement**

Remove and replace the pool liner for the entire pool. Steps include, but are not limited to:

- i. Completely draining the pool to expose the existing liner;
- ii. Removing the old pool liner, making sure to detach it from any coping or track systems that hold it in place;
- iii. Inspecting the pool’s structure for any damage or repairs;
- iv. Patching and repairing any cracks, holes, or imperfections in the pool’s surface and ensure pool is free of debris;
- v. Ordering and providing a new liner;
- vi. Installing the new liner into the pool and smoothing out any wrinkles and ensure a snug fit; and
- vii. Cleaning up the site and disposing of any waste materials.

Questions regarding this project may be directed to the Park District’s Maintenance Superintendent, Jose Collazo, at 708-652-3545. Any interested parties that want to receive answers to any other questions submitted by other bidders may inquire by contacting Jose Collazo.

Sealed bids will be received until **10:00 a.m. on November 6, 2023**, at the Cicero Stadium located at 1909 South Laramie Avenue, Cicero, Illinois 60804. Any bids received after the closing time will be rejected and returned unopened. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Cicero Stadium located at 1909 South Laramie Avenue, Cicero, Illinois 60804 at 12:00 p.m. on November 6, 2023.

The bids should be addressed to “Clyde Park District” and the outside of the sealed envelope shall bear the legend “BID - Parkholme Pool Project 2023.”

The Park District reserves the right to reject any bid, in whole or in part, that does not meet the Park District’s established specifications, terms of delivery, quality and serviceability. This Invitation to Bid shall not create any legal obligations on the part of the Park District to enter into any contract or other agreement with any party who submits a bid except on terms on conditions the Park District, in its sole absolute discretion, deems to be satisfactory and desirable.

Clyder Park District, Cook County, Illinois

# Pritzker Administration Announces Small Business Grant Awards for B2B Restaurants, Hotels and Arts

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) today announced the conclusion of the Back to Business (B2B) Restaurants, Hotels and Arts program with \$156 million provided in relief funds. Through these three programs, nearly 4,000 grants went to businesses in over 500 cities, towns and localities in 95 counties across the state. A list of Illinois B2B grantees can be found at [www.dceo.illinois.gov](https://www.dceo.illinois.gov) B2B Arts and B2B Restaurants grant award amounts were determined based on a percentage of revenue declines, and funding for the B2B Hotels awards was allocated based on the number of rooms. Grants had an average award amount of \$39,484, with



different ranges of funding available depending on the business type. The grant program utilized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and was designed to offset losses and support job retention in the industries hardest-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the pandemic, the Pritzker administration has provided assistance to totaling more than \$1.5 billion through DCEO programs. Through B2B and BIG programs alone, Illinois has distributed 19,500 awards to businesses totaling nearly \$700 million.



## Time is Running Out to Apply for FEMA Assistance



The deadline to apply for federal assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is October 30 if you suffered losses from the flooding and storms that struck the state June 29 – July 2. Registering with FEMA is as easy as a phone call to the FEMA Hotline, 800-621-3362, or a visit to a nearby Disaster Recovery Center, which you can find at FEMA Disaster Recovery Locator. Users of a video

relay service, captioned telephone service, or other communication services need to provide FEMA the specific number assigned for that service. Survivors can also register through DisasterAssistance.gov, or on the FEMA app on their phones. If you have already registered, you can keep in touch with FEMA via the Helpline, 800-621-3362, to change your contact information, get your questions answered

or to track the progress of your application. Whether you are a homeowner, renter or business owner, you may be eligible for a FEMA grant and/or an SBA disaster loan that may help get you on the way to recovering from disaster losses. There's only one week left to register, and the clock is ticking. For additional information about the disaster recovery operation in Illinois, visit [www.fema.gov/disaster/4728](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4728).

## Illinois Celebrates National Women's Business Month

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is celebrating National Women's Business Month throughout October by recognizing the significant contributions of women-owned businesses throughout the state. The celebration – which is designated through a proclamation – includes business resources such as virtual and in-person events, resource guides for financial and social capital, business spotlights on social media, and a social media campaign to support and elevate Illinois women-owned businesses. DCEO will host an in-person resource session for inspiring women entrepreneurs.

**Connecting HER to Illinois Business Resources**  
Monday, October 30 | 1:30-3:30 p.m. | In-Person  
Market Street Music



Conservatory | 310 N. Market St. Marion, IL  
Tailored for women-owned businesses of all stages, future women entrepreneurs, and aspiring female founders. Join DCEO and the City of Marion for a presentation focused on inspiring, connecting, and advancing Illinois women-

owned businesses, future women entrepreneurs, and aspiring female founders with business resources and opportunities offered across Illinois' entrepreneurial ecosystem. To learn more about ongoing resources and programs for businesses, follow DCEO on social media @IllinoisDCEO.



## Carreras en la energía limpia y una confiabilidad récord.


ComEd está modernizando activamente nuestra red eléctrica para permitir más energía solar y poder cargar más vehículos eléctricos. La transición a la energía limpia está impulsando la economía del norte de Illinois y creando empleos locales bien remunerados para las diversas comunidades en las que ComEd ofrece sus servicios.

Más información en [ComEd.com/CleanEnergyCareers](https://ComEd.com/CleanEnergyCareers)





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**104** PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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Gracias a nuestra inversión en programas y recursos líderes en la industria y al compromiso de ayudar a nuestros compañeros a alcanzar sus metas personales y profesionales, recibimos el premio Grand Stevie Award como Organización del Año. Estoy orgullosa de este reconocimiento, muy orgullosa de nuestros empleados y especialmente orgullosa de ser parte de esta comunidad a la que todos servimos.

Rita Sola Cook  
Presidente de Bank of America en Chicago

Conozca más en **bankofamerica.com/chicago** (solo se ofrece en inglés).



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Los premios Stevie Awards reconocen los logros de empresas y profesionales en todo el mundo. Las organizaciones se autonominan, proporcionando datos para diversas categorías, y los ganadores se determinan mediante los puntajes promedio de más de 240 profesionales en todo el mundo que actúan como jueces.  
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