

Sunday Edition



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NEWS

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WEST SIDE TIMES



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ESTABLISHED 1940

The International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago Announces First Concert of Their 2025 Latino Music Series

A pianist since the age of four, Heloisa Fernandes made her international debut to critical acclaim at Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina in 2008, three years after releasing her debut album *Fruto* which featured her own compositions and unique arrangements of works by Pixinguinha and Caetano Veloso. The idea for her third album was born in Chicago: specifically, with a Fazioli on the stage of PianoForte Studios in Chicago where she performed in 2014. The invitation to record a new album using this piano almost didn't happen after she fell gravely ill. Once she recovered, Fernandes wanted the album, entitled *Faces* and released in 2016, to have the edge and risk-taking of an improvised concert, to be thoroughly in the moment. Strong and original, ancient and modern, Fernandes' sublime creations blossom with rhythmic vitality and melodic delicacy. With her skill as an improviser, she searches for the music's emotional depths and soars with joy. She will conclude her Chicago stop with three days of



recording at PianoForte for her new solo album. Admission: \$30, general; \$25, ILCC members. For more information, visit

latinoculturalcenter.org. The performance will take place on Sunday, Feb. 23rd at 7p.m., at the Epiphany Center for the Arts, 201 S.

Ashland Avenue.

Photo Credit:
International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago

El Centro Cultural Latino Internacional de Chicago anuncia el primer concierto de su gira de música latina de 2025

ComEd and Nicor Gas Team Up to Offer Advanced Certifications to Local Contractors Focused on Energy Efficiency



ComEd and Nicor Gas are collaborating to provide advanced energy efficiency certification opportunities to recent graduates of the utilities' Market Development Initiative (MDI) programs. MDI is an educational offering designed to provide training and advanced certifications for new and experienced professionals in the growing energy efficiency, with a focus on local and diverse individuals

and entrepreneurs. The Building Performance Institute (BPI) certifications will allow home performance professionals to conduct energy modeling, building analysis and data evaluation services so that they can provide more thorough improvement recommendations. The certification will allow the participants to better compete in the energy efficiency industry. MDI participants who achieved

BPI certifications in Building Science Principles (BSP) and Building Analyst Technician (BA-T) through ComEd or Nicor Gas MDIs have been invited to further enhance their expertise by earning the prestigious Building Professional (BA-P) credential. Visit ComEd.com/MDI and nicorgas.com/mdi to learn more about MDI offerings and future energy efficiency workforce trainings.

ComEd y Nicor Gas se Unen para Ofrecer Certificaciones Avanzadas a Contratistas Locales Enfocados en la Eficiencia Energética

ComEd y Nicor Gas están colaborando para brindar oportunidades avanzadas de certificación en eficiencia energética a los recién graduados de

los programas de Iniciativa de Desarrollo de Mercado (MDI) de las empresas de servicios públicos. MDI es una oferta educativa diseñada a proveer entre-

namiento y certificaciones avanzadas para nuevos y experimentados profesionales en la creciente eficiencia de energía, con enfoque

Pase a la página 4



Chicago Public Schools Awarded Federal Grant for Personalized Learning

Four magnet cluster schools across Chicago Public Schools (CPS) are gearing up to adopt a new learning model that positions students at the center of designing their education. The schools recently received a five-year, \$15 million Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) grant from the United States Department of Education to become exemplar personalized learning schools. Personalized learning is an instructional model that allows students to play an active role with their teachers in co-designing their learning path, pace, and environment based on their individual strengths, needs, and interests. The model presents an exciting

opportunity for students and families as authentic connections are made to connect learning to their communities and outside the classroom. The four schools – Avalon Park Elementary School, Milton Brunson Math & Science Specialty Elementary School, Rudyard Kipling Elementary School, and Logan Square Elementary School – will join 13 personalized learning schools across the District. Implementation begins

at the start of School Year 2025-26 and will continue through School Year 2028-29. Funding will help schools provide professional development to help create best practices and shift classrooms into the personalized learning model. Some schools may incorporate new positions as well as technology, and create or build on community partnerships for enrichment opportunities such as field trips and after-school programming.



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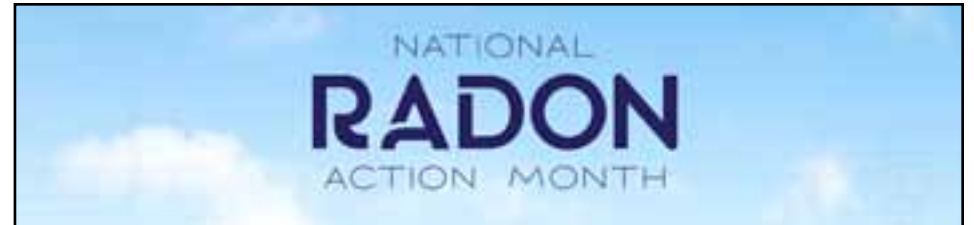
Forest Preserves of Cook County obtiene la distinción American Humane Certified™ por el cuidado, el bienestar y el bienestar de los animales



American Humane Society, la primera organización humanitaria nacional de los Estados Unidos y el certificador más grande del mundo de prácticas de bienestar animal, anunció que Forest Preserves of Cook County ha obtenido la distinción American Humane Certified™ por sus altos estándares de cuidado y tratamiento de los animales en sus seis centros naturales. Para ser reconocidos como American Humane Certified, Forest Preserves of Cook County aprobó una rigurosa evaluación independiente que revisó el bienestar de los animales

bajo su cuidado. El proceso único está guiado por la ciencia más reciente y las mejores prácticas y está informado por veterinarios respetados y expertos en los campos del bienestar animal, la ciencia animal, la zoología y la ética que tienen décadas de experiencia en la protección de los animales. El proceso de validación independiente brinda a los visitantes la confianza de que la institución está cumpliendo con un alto estándar de atención. El proceso incluye la presentación de una solicitud previa a la auditoría, seguida de una auditoría en el sitio que

evalúa el bienestar animal. Los factores que se tienen en cuenta durante la auditoría incluyen, entre otros, el alojamiento, la comida, el agua, la iluminación, la sombra, el sonido, los niveles de actividad y la capacitación del personal que interactúa con los animales. Los parámetros de referencia son específicos de cada especie. El programa American Humane Certified™ es el primer esfuerzo de certificación dedicado exclusivamente a ayudar a verificar el bienestar y el trato humano de los animales que viven en zoológicos, acuarios y centros de conservación en todo el mundo.



IEMA-OHS Encourages Testing During Radon Action Month

With no scent, color, or taste, radon is a stealthy killer. In fact, it's the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. "January is National Radon Action Month and a good opportunity to learn about this gas," explained Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) Director

Alicia Tate-Nadeau. Radon test kits can be purchased by calling the Illinois Radon Hotline at 800-325-1245 or at most hardware and department stores. It is recommended to conduct one short-term test and one long-term test to ensure consistent readings. Should you find higher readings, you should contact IEMA-OHS at 800-

325-1245 for information about a licensed mitigation professional who are trained to reduce radon levels. For information on radon measurement, mitigation, and licensing, visit the IEMA-OHS Radon page at <https://iemaohs.illinois.gov/nrs/radon.html>. Information is also available through IEMA-OHS' Radon Hotline at 800-325-1245.

IEMA-OHS recomienda realizar pruebas durante el Mes de Acción contra el Radón



El radón, que no tiene olor, color ni sabor, es un asesino sigiloso. De hecho, es la segunda causa principal de cáncer de pulmón en los EE. UU. "Enero es el Mes Nacional de Acción contra el Radón y una buena oportunidad para aprender sobre este gas", explicó Alicia Tate-Nadeau, directora de la Agencia de Gestión de Emergencias de Illinois y la Oficina de Seguridad Nacional (IEMA-

OHS). Los kits de prueba de radón se pueden comprar llamando a la línea directa de radón de Illinois al 800-325-1245 o en la mayoría de las ferreterías y tiendas departamentales. Se recomienda realizar una prueba a corto plazo y una prueba a largo plazo para garantizar lecturas consistentes. Si encuentra lecturas más altas, debe comunicarse con IEMA-OHS al 800-325-1245 para obtener

información sobre un profesional de mitigación autorizado que esté capacitado para reducir los niveles de radón. Para obtener información sobre medición, mitigación y licencias de radón, visite la página sobre radón de IEMA-OHS en <https://iemaohs.illinois.gov/nrs/radon.html>. También puede obtener información a través de la línea directa de radón de IEMA-OHS al 800-325-1245.



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Forest Preserves of Cook County Achieves the American Humane Certified™ Distinction for Animal Care, Welfare and Wellbeing

American Humane Society, the United States' first national humane organization and the world's largest certifier of animal welfare practices, announced that the Forest Preserves of Cook County has earned the distinction of American Humane Certified™ for its high standards of care and treatment of animals at its six nature centers. To be recognized as American Humane Certified, the Forest Preserves of Cook County passed a rigorous independent assessment that reviewed the wellbeing of animals in their care. The unique process is guided by the latest science and best practices and is informed by respected veterinarians and experts in the fields of animal welfare, animal science, zoology and ethics who have decades of experience in protecting animals. The independent



validation process provides visitors with confidence that the institution is meeting a high benchmark of care. The process includes submission of a pre-audit application, followed by an onsite audit that assesses animal welfare. Factors considered during the audit include, but are not limited to, housing, food, water, lighting, shade, sound, activity levels, and

the training of staff who are interacting with the animals. The benchmarks are species specific. The American Humane Certified™ program is the first certification effort solely dedicated to helping verify the welfare and humane treatment of animals living in zoos, aquariums and conservation centers across the globe.

Gov. Pritzker Announces Launch of BEACON Children's Behavioral Health Portal

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative (CBHTI) announced the public launch of the BEACON (Behavioral Health Care and Ongoing Navigation) care portal, a centralized resource for Illinois youth and families seeking youth mental health

services and care, including state agency support and community-based programs. BEACON is now live for use by Illinois residents and can be accessed at beacon.illinois.gov. In the portal, parents and caregivers can learn which community-based resources are available nearby and which state-funded programs youth

may be eligible for. These programs might include outpatient counseling, school-based services, wraparound services to help support families caring for youth with complex needs, or residential treatment services. BEACON also provides assistance in organizing information about a child's care and connecting families with the services, including communication with state agency representatives. BEACON provides Illinois families with information about available behavioral health services for children and adolescents, centralizing resources from the following agencies:

- Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
- Illinois Department of

Continued on page 5

ComEd y Nicor Gas se Unen para Ofrecer...

Viene de la página 2

en personas y empresarios locales y diversos. Las certificaciones del Building Performance Institute (BPI) permitirán a los profesionales del desempeño del hogar realizar servicios de modelado energético, análisis de edificios y evaluación de datos para que puedan brindar más recomendaciones de mejoras. La certificación permitirá a los participantes competir mejor en la industria

de la eficiencia energética. Los participantes del programa MDI que obtuvieron las certificaciones CPI en Principios de la ciencia de la construcción (BSP) y Técnico en análisis de la construcción (BA-T) a través de MDI de ComEd o Nicor Gas han sido invitados a mejorar aún más su experiencia obteniendo la prestigiosa credencial de Profesional de la construcción (BA-P).

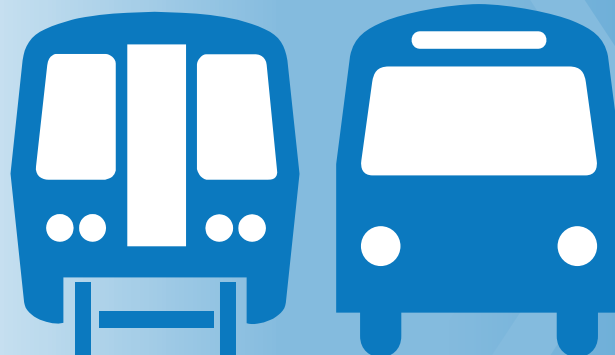
¡Ayude a impulsar “El futuro de nuestro transporte”!

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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State Rep. Hernandez to Champion Education in New House Term

State Rep. Elizabeth 'Lisa' Hernandez, D-Cicero, was sworn in to a new term in the Illinois House on Wednesday, where she will continue to work on salient issues including education. Hernandez released the following statement: "As we begin a new General Assembly, now is the time for us to rededicate ourselves to the issues

Gov. Pritzker Announces...

Continued from page 4

- Public Health (IDPH)
- Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)
- Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ)

For more information about the BEACON portal or to view an instructional video about how to utilize the service, go to beacon.illinois.gov.



families face in their day to day lives. Childcare affordability, access to quality public and higher education, paying the bills on time and in full, and more: these are a few of the issues everyday people, especially those in my community, are talking about and facing. I have dedicated my life

to serving the children of Cicero's public schools, to making college more affordable and accessible for first generation students, and to creating stronger connections between aid and those affected by natural disasters. Because of this commitment, we saw record numbers of students taking advantage of MAP

grants, FEMA dollars going to our families, legislation enacted to clarify flood insurance policies and the development of a first-of-its-kind department to create and manage affordable childcare facilities across our state. I am dedicated to expanding on these developments in the coming session."

La Rep. Estatal Hernández Defenderá la Educación en su Nuevo Mandato en la Cámara de Representantes

La Representante Estatal Elizabeth 'Lisa' Hernández, D-Cicero, fue juramentada en un nuevo término en la Cámara de Illinois el miércoles, donde continuará trabajando en problemas que incluyen la educación. La Rep. Hernández publicó la siguiente declaración:

"Al comenzar una nueva Asamblea General, es el momento adecuado para que nos re-dedicamos a problemas que las familias enfrentan día con día. La asequibilidad al cuidado infantil, el acceso a educación pública de calidad, el pago de las cuentas a tiempo y en total y más: Estos son unos de los cuantos problemas que la gente enfrenta todos los días, especialmente los de mi comunidad, hablamos de ellos y los enfrentamos. He dedicado mi vida a servir a los niños de las escuelas públicas de Cicero, para hacer la universidad más asequible y más accesible para los estudiantes de primera generación y para crear conexiones más fuertes entre la ayuda y los afectados por desastres naturales. Gracias a este compromiso, vimos cifras récord de estudiantes aprovechando los subsidios MAP, el dinero de FEMA que llega a nuestras familias, la aprobación de una legislación para clarificar las políticas de seguridad en inundaciones y el desarrollo de un departamento, primero en su clase, para crear y administrar instalaciones de cuidado infantil económicas en nuestro estado. Estoy dedicada a ampliar estos desarrollos en la próxima sesión.

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Clases de primavera comienzan el 13 de enero.
ccc.edu/aplica

Commissioner George Cardenas Encourages Taxpayers to Appeal Their Property Value Assessments Before Deadline

Homeowners in Jefferson Township have until January 17th to appeal their property's assessed value to the Cook County Board of Review. Appealing with the Board of Review is a free service and can potentially lower your future property tax bills. Last year, approximately 62 percent of homeowners who filed directly to the Board of Review had their property tax bill reduced according to an analysis from Cook County Board of Review District One. The office of Cook County Board of Review Commissioner George Cardenas, in partnership with several local elected officials, will host property tax appeal workshop in Jefferson Township for taxpayers this week. The event, part of several organized by Cook



County Board of Review Commissioner George Cardenas, will provide taxpayers an opportunity to appeal their property value assessments with Board of Review staff. More details

are below:
 Thursday, January 16th
 From 6:00PM - 8:00PM
 St. Ferdinand Catholic School Cafeteria
 3145 N. Mason Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60634

Taxpayers can visit cookcountyboardofreview.com or call the Cook County Board of Review at (312) 603-5542 to appeal, learn more about the appeal process, and have questions addressed by Cook County Board of Review staff.

El Comisionado George Cárdenas Insta a los Contribuyentes a Apelar las Tasaciones del Valor de sus Propiedades Antes de la Fecha Límite

Los propietarios en Jefferson Township tienen hasta el 17 de enero para apelar las evaluaciones del valor de su propiedad a la Junta de Revisiones del Condado de Cook. La apelación con la Junta de Revisión es un servicio gratuito y puede potencialmente bajar la cuenta de impuestos de propiedad del futuro. El año pasado, aproximadamente 62 por ciento de los propietarios que se registraron directamente en la Junta de Revisiones tuvieron sus cuentas de impuestos de propiedad reducidas, de acuerdo a un análisis de la Junta del Condado de Cook del Distrito Uno. El Comisionado George Cárdenas, de la oficina de la Junta de Revisiones del Condado de Cook, en colaboración con varios funcionarios electos, ofrecerá talleres de apelaciones de impuestos de propiedad en Jefferson Township para los contribuyentes esta semana. El evento, parte de varios organizados por George Cárdenas, comisionado de la Junta de Revisiones del Condado de Cook, brindará a los contribuyentes la oportunidad de apelar las evaluaciones a su propiedad con el personal de la Junta de Revisiones. Más detalles a continuación:

Jueves, 16 de enero de 6:00 p.m. a 8:00 p.m.
 St. Ferdinand Catholic School Cafeteria
 3145 N. Mason Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60634

Los contribuyentes pueden visitar cookcountyboardofreview.com o llamar a la Junta de Revisiones del Condado de Cook al; (312) 603-5542 para apelar, aprender más sobre el proceso de apelaciones y si tiene preguntas dirigidas al personal de la Junta de Revisiones del Condado de Cook.

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