



Noticiero Bilingüe

LAWNDALE news

Sunday, April 27, 2025

WEST SIDE TIMES



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ESTABLISHED 1940

Lincoln Park Zoo Celebrates Earth Week

Celebrate Earth Week at Lincoln Park Zoo with events, activities, and partnerships on grounds and out in our City in a Garden. Kicking things off, the zoo is partnering with Backlot Coffee all week long. Inspired by urban wildlife and the flying squirrels caught on camera traps by the Urban Wildlife Institute, \$2 from every bag purchased in store and online of Backlot's Flying Squirrel blend coffee will go back to Lincoln Park Zoo. This is a great way for wildlife lovers to support the zoo and a fantastic Chicago coffee shop in one fell swoop.

Free activities during Earth Week:

Thursday, April 24: Small Steps, Big Impact

11 a.m.–noon: Choose Sustainable Palm Oil Cart – guests can stop by the rolling cart to learn about the importance of choosing foods and household products that use sustainably sourced palm oil.

Friday, April 25: Arbor Day

•10 a.m.–noon: Nature Activities – Learn about trees and their leaves, along with how to support healthy forests, through a leaf memory match game

•10 a.m.–1 p.m.: Oak Tree Cookie Table Demonstration and Stories with horticulturalist Emily!

•Noon: Free Arboretum Tour



with zoo experts

Saturday, April 26: City Nature Challenge at McKinley Park

Teens from Lincoln Park Zoo's Conservation Ambassadors Board will host an afternoon of urban nature and wildlife at McKinley

Park, plus a friendly competition for Chicago in the 2025 City Nature Challenge. Guests can take part in free activities like:

- Identifying wildlife and nature
- Playing wildlife and nature bingo

- Journaling about nature
- Getting a chance to win fun prizes

Sunday, April 27: City Nature Challenge at Nature Boardwalk

Teens from Lincoln Park Zoo's Conservation Ambassadors Board will

host a day of urban nature and wildlife at Nature Boardwalk, plus a friendly competition for Chicago in the 2025 City Nature Challenge. Guests can part in free activities like:

- Identifying wildlife and nature

- Playing wildlife and nature bingo
- Engaging with art stations
- Taking part in a scavenger hunt
- Getting a chance to win fun prizes

For more information, visit lpzoo.org/earthweek

Photo Credit: Lincoln Park Zoo

Senator Dick Durbin Not Seeking Re-Election



Caption
by Ashmar Mandou

First elected to the Senate in 1996, Senator Dick Durbin, 80, announced he will not run for re-election in a video message on X Wednesday afternoon.

election at the end of my term,” said Durbin. He played a vital role in helping to pass the First Step Act in 2018. The bipartisan criminal justice reform legislation was signed by President Trump and reduced mandatory minimums for certain nonviolent drug offenses, created early release incentives and improved prison conditions. Durbin also co-authored the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act, which would provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children.

“The decision of whether to run for re-election has not been easy. I truly love the job of being a United States Senator. But in my heart, I know it’s time to pass the torch. So, I am announcing today that I will not be seeking re-

El Senador Dick Durbin no Busca la Reelección

Por Ashmar Mandou

Primero electo al Senado en 1996, el Senador Dick Durbin, de 80 años, anunció en un mensaje de vídeo, el miércoles por la tarde, que no correrá para la re-elección. La decisión de correr o no para la reelección no ha sido fácil. Verdaderamente me gusta el trabajo de ser Senador de Estados Unidos. Pero en mi corazón, yo se que es tiempo de pasar la antorcha a otro. Por lo tanto anuncio hoy que no buscaré la reelección al final de mi término”, dijo Durbin. Desempeñó un papel crucial en ayudar a pasar el acta ‘First Step



Act’ [La Ley del Primer Paso] en 2018. La legislación de reforma bipartidista de justicia criminal fue firmada por el Presidente Trump y redujo los mínimos obligatorios para ciertos delitos de drogas no violentos, creó incentivos para la liberación antici-

pada y mejoró las condiciones carcelarias. Durbin fue también co-autor del acta DREAM (Desarrollo, Alivio y Educación para Menores Extranjeros) que ofrecería un camino a la ciudadanía para inmigrantes indocumentados traídos a E.U. cuando niños.

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EXPO Chicago Returns to Navy Pier



EXPO CHICAGO returns to Navy Pier April 24-27, 2025, with a dynamic lineup of programming alongside its gallery presentations. Highlights include the IN/SITU, installations across Festival Hall; / Dialogues panel series; OVERRIDE | A Billboard Project, artworks presented on citywide billboards;

and the Northern Trust Exchange Stage. The fair will also feature institutional programming, including the much anticipated Directors Summit, Curatorial Forum, and Curatorial Exchange. Details of the core programs and the full schedule can be found at expo-chicago.com.
Photo Credit: EXPO Chicago

La Oficina de Turismo de Illinois Lanza una Nueva Campaña de Primavera/Verano y la Revista Enjoy Illinois

Justo a tiempo para la temporada pico de viajes, el Departamento de Comercio y Oportunidades Económicas de Illinois (DCEO) y la Oficina de Turismo, lanzaron su nueva campaña de propaganda de primavera/verano junto con la última edición de su revista bianual de viajes, Enjoy Illinois. Con una nueva versión de la galar-donada campaña estatal "Middle of Everything", la nueva publicidad destaca algunos de los destinos más emblemáticos de Il-linois e invita a los viajeros a experimentar lo mejor de Illinois durante sus meses más vibrantes. Desde el asombroso litoral de Chi-cago a los acantilados de arenisca del Parque Estatal Giant City en Makanda y la impresionante vista del Río Mississippi en Grafton, la campaña pone de relieve todo lo que Illinois tiene para ofrecer en todo



el estado. La revista de primavera/verano 2025 Enjoy Illinois – ahora disponible en digital e impresa – está

llena de fresca inspiración para ayudar a los viajeros a disfrutar al máximo la temporada. Suscríbase,

descargue o vea la revista Enjoy Illinois en línea en EnjoyIllinois.com.

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Maria Pappas

Column

Column: Your Property Taxes with Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas

You May Be Owed Money For Overpaying Property Taxes Up To 20 Years Ago

By Maria Pappas

My office is managing about \$122 million in potential refunds for property tax overpayments going back 20 years that I'm eager to send back to property owners. But determining who's entitled to a refund isn't simple. Most overpayments occurred because more than one person paid the same tax bill. Reasons why duplicate payments were made include:

•Both the property owner



and the property owner's mortgage company paid

the property tax bill;

- Both spouses paid the property tax bill without telling the other; or
- Two or more mortgage companies, banks or title companies paid the same taxes during a property purchase or refinancing.

You may be entitled to a refund even if you bought or sold your property long ago. The law allows refunds for duplicate payments made as many as 2 decades ago. So even if you've moved, you're still entitled to that refund if you overpaid. Ella McWilliams recently learned she'll be receiving a refund after learning there was a substantial overpayment back in 2004 when both the title company and the mortgage company made payments. Also, McWilliams made smaller overpayments in 2007, 2008 and 2009. But they add up. In all, McWilliams is owed just under \$1,350. McWilliams told the story of her \$1,346 refund as a guest on my "Black Houses Matter" radio show which airs at 11:30 a.m. every Monday on WVON-AM 1690.

"I guess God put it in my heart to call and I did," said McWilliams. Employees in my office helped the 79-year-old widow file the paperwork she needed to apply for her refund. She filled out a form labeled, "Refund Application: Duplicate & Overpayment." The form can be filed electronically and is available online at cookcountytreasurer.com. After providing contact

information, you may be asked to submit proof of payment. We require documentation to ensure that refunds are issued to only those who made the overpayment. It also helps prevent people attempting to file fraudulent claims from obtaining refunds.

The documents must show that you paid the taxes for the tax year and installment when the overpayment occurred. The type of documentation depends on how the payment was made.

- If you paid cash, a copy of your receipt serves as proof of payment.
- If you paid by personal check or business check, a copy of the front of the canceled check used to pay the taxes or a copy of the monthly bank statement showing the corresponding check number and payment amount is needed.
- If you paid online at cookcountytreasurer.com, you'll need a copy of your bank statement showing the transfer of funds to the Treasurer's Office or a copy of your credit card statement showing payment.
- If a mortgage company paid the taxes, you can provide a copy of the IRS Form 1098 indicating taxes were paid for the tax year in question.

In McWilliams' case, she had to provide proof that she made the property tax payment back in 2004 when the largest overpayment was made. "I had no idea I was going to be talking to the right people and getting what I needed to be done. But I got it done and I thank you all so much for that," said McWilliams. Visit cookcountytreasurer.com to find out if you are owed a share of more than \$100 million in overpayment refunds. But you can only get refunded for payments going back twenty years, so the time to act is now.

ISBE Launches Development of Statewide Numeracy Plan to Boost Student Learning in Math



The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced the launch of a statewide effort to develop an Illinois numeracy plan — a comprehensive strategy to boost student learning in math by supporting high-quality, evidence-based mathematics instruction in classrooms across the state. The initiative follows the state's successful and nationally acclaimed Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan and begins with a statewide needs assessment survey, which will be open April 16-30. The process to develop the plan will center on a collaborative approach beginning with a statewide needs assessment survey. ISBE is inviting math educators,

school and district leaders, representatives of higher education institutions, and Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) to take the survey. ISBE's invitation-only Numeracy Summit on June 3 will convene state and national math experts and key stakeholders to review survey findings and shape the direction of the plan. ISBE will publish a draft of the numeracy plan during its development and offer multiple opportunities for the public to provide feedback through statewide listening tours and online public comment. Visit ISBE's Standards and Instructions webpage to take the survey and find more information on the statewide numeracy plan.



TOWN OF CICERO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Town of Cicero Zoning Board of Appeals (the "ZBA") will convene a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 1:00 P.M.** in the Council Chambers, at the Town of Cicero, 4949 West Cermak Road, Cicero, Cook County, Illinois

Said Public Hearing is convened for the purpose of considering and hearing testimony with regards to a proposal initiated by the owners of the property located at **5943 West Roosevelt Rd., Cicero IL 60804**, is requesting a **Special Use Permit** to operate a Liquor store with gaming in a BC-P Zoning District (Business Corridor Pedestrian Orientated).

PIN: 16-20-200-038-0000

Legal Description:

LOTS 2 AND 3 IN LAMBERT'S SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTH 125 FEET OF LOT 5 (EXCEPT THAT PART TAKEN FOR WIDENING AUSTIN AVENUE) AND THE WEST 6.10 FEET OF THE NORTH 125 FEET OF LOT 4 IN BLOCK 2 OF MANDELLAND HYMAN'S SUBDIVISION OF THE EAST ½ OF THE NORTH-WEST ¼ AND THE WEST ½ OF THE NORTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 39 NORTH RANGE 13 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

The ZBA will entertain the submission of documents, testimony and public comment regarding said Proposal. All persons who are interested are invited to attend the public hearing to listen and be heard. The Proposal and all related documents are on file at Town Hall, Legal/Zoning Department, located at 4949 West Cermak Road, 2nd Floor, Cicero, Illinois.

This Public Hearing may be continued to a further time, date and place without further notice being given except as may be provided in the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Chairman

Tickets for 2025 Ravinia Festival on Sale



Tickets for the 2025 Ravinia Festival (June 6–Aug. 31) are now on sale. The Ravinia Festival has been a summer destination and tradition for over a century, attracting thousands of music lovers worldwide. The festival is renowned for its diverse musical programming, and

the 2025 summer lineup features more than 100 concerts and 40 artist debuts. Highlights include performances by Cynthia Erivo, Lenny Kravitz, Janelle Monáe, Maren Morris, Lang Lang, Beck, “Weird Al” Yankovic, Lindsey Stirling, Morgan Freeman, and Earth, Wind

& Fire, plus the 89th residency of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with Ravinia Chief Conductor Marin Alsop. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.ravinia.org.
Photo Credit: Ravinia Festival

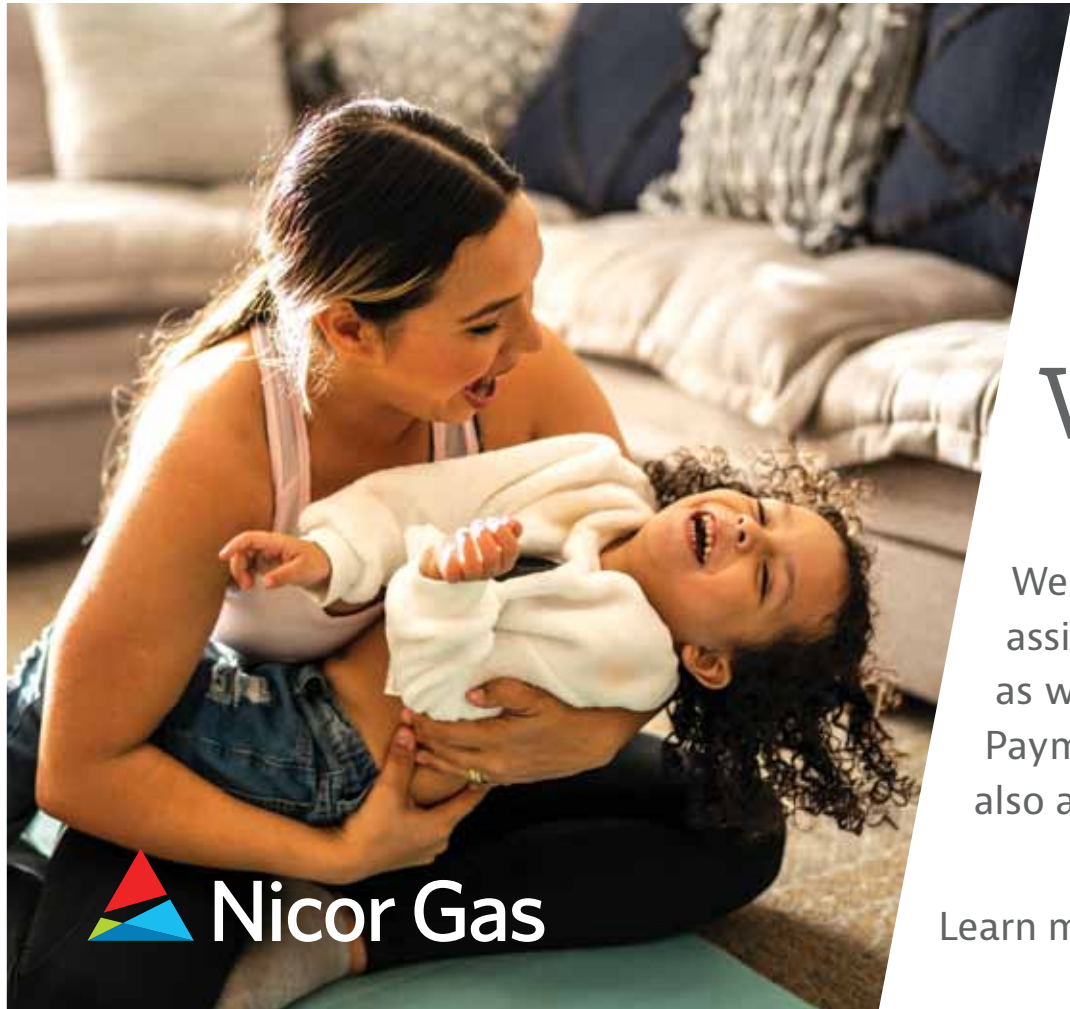


Illinois Office of Tourism Launches New Spring/Summer Campaign and Enjoy Illinois Magazine

Just in time for peak travel season, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Office of Tourism launched its new spring/summer advertising campaign along with the latest edition of its free, biannual travel magazine, *Enjoy Illinois*. With a fresh take on the state’s award-winning “Middle of Everything” campaign, the new

advertising spotlights some of Illinois’ most iconic destinations, inviting travelers to experience the best of Illinois during its most vibrant months. From Chicago’s breathtaking skyline to the sandstone bluffs of Giant City State Park in Makanda to sweeping Mississippi River views in Grafton, the campaign highlights all that Illinois has to offer throughout the state.

The *Enjoy Illinois* Spring/Summer 2025 magazine — now available in digital and print — is packed with fresh inspiration to help travelers make the most out of the season. Subscribe, download or view the *Enjoy Illinois* magazine online on EnjoyIllinois.com.
Photo Credit: Illinois Office of Tourism



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Several Members of the Illinois Democratic General Assembly Announce the 'For the People' Bus Tour



Illinois Legislative leaders are set to attend the four-stop **'For the People' Bus Tour** in Illinois on Sunday, April 27 to connect with residents on upcoming financial cuts enacted by the Trump-Vance administration. The proposed federal budget threatens Illinoisians. Millions across our state utilize essential programs for healthcare access, mental health services, affordable housing, school resources and funding to local infrastructure. Illinois state senators come together 'For the People' Bus Tour to discuss the state budget to prevent cuts

to essential programs and provide relief to working-class families across our state as pressure mounts to pass a budget by May 31st, 2025. Tour stop details are as follows:

1. **(Chicago)** – 10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at **SEIU Healthcare** (2229 S Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60608) with Sen. Lakesia Collins, Sen. Javier Cervantes, Sen. Celina Villanueva, Leader Robert Peters
2. **(Buffalo Grove)** – 12 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. at **Mike Rylko Community Park** (1000 N Buffalo Grove Rd, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089) with Sen. Mary Edly-Allen,

Sen. Adrienne Johnson, and Sen. Mark Walker
3. **(Joliet)** – 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. at **Joliet Junior College Main Campus U Building Auditorium** (1215 Houbolt Rd, Joliet, IL 60431) with Sen. Rachel Ventura, Sen. Karina Villa
4. **(Chicago)** – 4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. at **Hairpin Arts Center** (2810 N Milwaukee Ave 60618) with Sen. Graciela Guzmán, Leader Ram Villivalam, Leader Omar Aquino, Sen. Robert Martwick, and Sen. Mike Simmons
Each stop will offer opportunities to engage with local leaders, ask questions, and access resources.



Vive Tu Vida En Forma Launches 10-Stop Chicagoland Health Equity Fiesta Tour

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, the Vive Tu Vida En Forma organization will launch its most ambitious health equity initiative to date — the Chicagoland Health Equity Fiesta Tour, a 10-stop journey bringing essential health services to underserved and uninsured communities across the region. The first event kicks off at 10a.m. at Brighton Park Community Campus (Park No. 596), 4830 S. Western Avenue, in the heart of one of Chicago's most underserved

neighborhoods. From Brighton Park to Waukegan, Forest Park to Rockford, and everywhere in between — the Health Equity Fiesta Tour will provide free or low-cost health screenings, mental health resources, women's and men's health education, HIV/AIDS testing, diabetes monitoring, CPR training, and so much more. This year's tour will include stops in:
•April 26 – Brighton Park (Chicago)
•May 10 – Forest Park

•May 24 – Aurora
•June 14 – North Riverside (Men's Health Month Feature)
•June 21 – Elgin
•July 12 – Albany Park (Chicago)
•July 26 – Waukegan
•August 2 – Rockford
•August 9 – Malcolm X College (Chicago)
•August 16 – Southeast Chicago
The events are free and open to the public. To learn more about the tour or how to get involved, visit www.vivetuvidaenforma.org.

VNA Health Care Celebrates Grand Opening of New Clinic on Aurora's East Side

VNA Health Care, the largest Community Health Center in the Chicago suburbs, celebrated the grand opening of its new clinic on the Bloomhaven Campus in Aurora last Thursday. The new facility, located at 323 Weston Avenue, continues VNA's deep, long-standing commitment to the Aurora community and allows VNA to expand its service offerings and increase patient accessibility to quality, affordable healthcare on the east side of Aurora. VNA made an \$8 million investment in



the buildout of the 26,000 square foot medical center that is home to more than 30 medical exam rooms, procedure rooms, mental health counseling rooms and therapy centers, as well as a pharmacy, a wellness classroom and kitchen, and laboratory. The clinic offers comprehensive primary care services, including

family practice, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, physical therapy, mental and behavioral health care, nutrition services, pharmacy, lab tests and vaccinations, health and wellness education and more. To learn more, visit www.vnahealth.com.
Photo Credit: VNA HEALTH CARE

Vive Tu Vida En Forma Lanza Gira de Fiesta por la Equidad en Salud de Chicago con 10 Paradas

El sábado, 26 de abril, 2025, la organización Vive Tu Vida En Forma lanzará su iniciativa de equidad de salud más ambiciosa a la fecha — Chicagoland Health Equity Fiesta Tour [Gira de la Fiesta de la Equidad en Salud de Chicagoland] un viaje de 10 paradas que lleva servicios de salud esenciales a comunidades marginadas y sin seguro de salud de la región. El primer evento comienza a las 10 a.m. en Brighton Park Community Campus (Park No. 596), 4830 Western Ave. en el corazón de uno de los barrios más marginados. De

Brighton Park a Waukegan, de Forest Park a Rockford y cualquier lugar entre ellos — la Gira de la Fiesta de Equidad en Salud ofrecerá exámenes de salud a bajo costo, recursos de salud mental, educación de salud para hombres y mujeres, pruebas de VIH/SIDA, control de la diabetes, Entrenamiento en RCP y mucho más. La gira de este año incluirá paradas en:
•Abril 26 – Brighton Park (Chicago)
•Mayo 10 – Forest Park
•Mayo 24 – Aurora
•Junio 14 – North Riverside (Artículo del Mes de



la Salud Masculina)
•Junio 21 – Elgin
•Julio 12 – Albany Park (Chicago)
•Julio 26 – Waukegan
•Agosto 2 – Rockford
•Agosto 9 – Malcolm X College (Chicago)
•Agosto 16 Southeast Chicago
Los eventos son gratis y abiertos al público. Para más información sobre la gira y cómo participar, visite www.vivetuvidaenforma.org.

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Advocates Defending Social Security for Immigrants



By: Ashmar Mandou

On Monday, April 21st, Representative Jesús “Chuy” García (IL-04) held a press conference outside of Federal Plaza, alongside local elected officials, AFGE National, Social Security Works, and community leaders. Together, they spoke out against the Trump administration’s plan to cut thousands of Social Security Administration (SSA) jobs and eliminate Spanish-language services, a move that would severely impact federal workers, seniors, people with disabilities, and Spanish-speaking immigrants in Illinois’ 4th Congressional District, claimed Congressman García. “Social Security isn’t a gift — it’s something paid into and earned. But right now, the Trump administration is slashing jobs, shutting down services, and targeting immigrant communities. This is not about saving Americans money — it’s about making the rich even richer. We’re here to say clearly: *Hands off Social Security*. Eliminating services in Spanish is more than bad policy — it’s a civil rights crisis. We won’t let it be dismantled without

a fight,” said Congressman García.

In Federal Plaza, Rep. Jesús “Chuy” García criticized the administration of President Donald Trump for terminating thousands of workers from the Social Security Administration, which could potentially lead to cutting half of the agency’s entire staff. That comes after the closure of 47 Social Security offices across the country, including 26 this month. No offices in Illinois have been closed. The federal government also recently classified more than 6,000 living immigrants as dead and canceled their Social Security numbers, meaning they cannot legally get a job, collect Social Security benefits or receive certain government benefits. This also makes it harder to open bank accounts or enroll their children in schools. “Social Security is a critical lifeline for people with disabilities, many of whom live in poverty because of their disability. There are more than 11 million disabled Americans under the age of 65 who rely on benefits from the Social Security Administration. When a local field office is closed, the number of people receiving disability

benefits nearby drops by 16 percent. This cuts families from lifesaving financial support,” said Michelle García, Manager of Organizing and Community Development at Access Living. “For our seniors, Social Security isn’t extra money. It’s how they pay the rent, buy food, cover prescriptions, and keep the lights on. A delayed check or a lost claim can throw their entire life into crisis. We have a responsibility to protect the dignity of our elders. We’re not going to wait for this crisis to get worse. We’re raising our voices now, because our seniors can’t afford to be ignored,” added Richard Juarez, Executive Director of Solutions for Care.

Photo Credit: Office of Representative Jesús “Chuy” García



VNA Health Care Celebra Gran Inauguración de su Nueva Clínica en el Lado Este de Aurora



VNA Health Care, el mayor Centro de Salud Comunitario en los suburbios de Chicago, celebró la gran apertura de su nueva clínica en Bloomhaven Campus en Aurora, el pasado jueves. La nueva instalación, localizada en el 323 Weston Ave., continúa el profundo y largo compromiso de VNA con la comunidad de Aurora y permite a VNA ampliar sus servicios y aumentar

la accesibilidad de los pacientes a cuidado médico económico y de calidad, en el lado este de Aurora. VNA hizo una inversión de \$8 millones en la construcción del centro médico de 26,000 pies cuadrados, sede de más de 30 salas de examen médico, salas de procedimientos, salas de consejería de salud mental y centros de terapia, así como una farmacia, un salón de bienestar, una

cocina y un laboratorio. La clínica ofrece servicios de atención primaria integral, incluyendo práctica familiar, pediatría, obstetricia y ginecología, terapia física, cuidado de salud mental y conductual, servicios de nutrición, farmacia, pruebas de laboratorio y vacunas, educación sobre salud y bienestar y más. Para más información, visite www.vnahealth.com.

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VNA HEALTH CARE

Cook County Health Announces Opening of Application Process for Provident Scholarship Fund

Cook County Government, Cook County Health, the Cook County Health Foundation and Project Rainbow announced the opening of the application process for the Provident Scholarship Fund. The scholarship program supports future healthcare professionals, builds the local healthcare workforce, and advances equity in medicine. The application process closes on Sunday, May 18. For more information, or to apply, visit <https://cookcountyhealth.org/provident-scholarship-fund/>. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to eligible students, as well as mentorship and professional development opportunities. Cook



County Health is investing \$1.5M in this year’s scholarship awards. The Cook County Health Foundation is contributing \$250,000. The Provident Scholarship Fund offers \$20,000 scholarships to health professional students, including those in medical, dental, physician assistant and nurse practitioner programs

and \$10,000 scholarships to undergraduate and allied health students. CCHF invites community members, healthcare partners, and donors to support the Provident Scholarship Fund and help build a stronger, more diverse healthcare workforce by donating at www.cchealthfoundation.org/donate.