



# CHICAGO PEOPLES VOICE

## North Chicago Celebrate Holidays With Annual Tree Lighting Event





# The E.Reed Report: December 2022

## Inflation Is Driving People to the Food Pantries

Information provided by TNT News Services

Chicago-Area Food Pantries Dealing With

**Rising Need, Higher Prices:** If you've already done your grocery shopping, you may have noticed the cost of Thanksgiving dinner has gone up this year. For families already stretching to make ends meet, this might mean seeking help from local food pantries. Many Chicago-area pantries are reporting a significant increase in demand of late.

Kate Maher, executive director and CEO of the Greater Chicago Food Depository, says they're seeing a 35% increase compared to last year. Those numbers are similar to what the depository saw at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. But that 35% is much more impactful this year because of inflation. "The particular type of inflation right now is challenging, not just because it means that more people are showing up as food pantries, it's also challenging because we are paying more for the food that we have to deliver to those pantries," Maher said.

"So about 50% of the food that we distribute is food that we are purchasing, and we are spending a lot more money on that food," Maher says. "The depository spent \$1 million more this year on food because of inflation. Another reason for the increased need is the rollback of support from government programs that existed at the start of the pandemic," Maher stated. "There were some programs in the early days of the pandemic that provided government food assistance. We needed that," Maher said. "But those programs have a sunset. And so we are back to relying on donated food and then food that we purchase and that food that we purchase in the case of the Greater Chicago

Food Depository."

Michele Zurakowski is the CEO of Beyond Hunger in Oak Park, which serves families in the West Side of Chicago and Chicago's western suburbs. She points out that gas prices have also had a big impact on the families her organization serves. "A lot of people just can't keep up with inflation and particularly gasoline," said Zurakowski. "I think a lot of it has to do with being dependent on our cars to get to jobs, and with gas prices so high, that's really been a determining factor for a lot of people." Beyond Hunger has seen an increase in demand of about 40%, Zurakowski said. "We're looking at trying to purchase food from local farmers and distributors, so that enables us to move the money around to create more systems," Zurakowski said.

Margaret O'Connor is executive director of Common Pantry on the North Side of Chicago, which went from serving about 386 families last year to 650 this year. "It's a domino effect. People can't afford their food because it costs too much, and likewise, people can't donate as much either," she said. Common Pantry has also had to increase its food purchases by about 36%. O'Connor says they are still getting monetary donations, but their rescue program through local grocery stores has seen a dip.

"It really just comes down to inflation. Not being able to recognize that this time last year, what the landscape would look like, that's where we're really seeing the impact," she said. With increased demand, food pantries also need more volunteers to serve the communities. If you are interested in making food, monetary donations, or interested in volunteering, you can find more information on the organizations' websites.

– TNT News Service

The Chicago Peoples Voice is a publication of the Soaring Eagle Community Development Corporation, the Soaring Eagle Publishing Division. The Chicago Peoples Voice, now in its 28th year of publication is a community newspaper dedicated to providing positive news and information to the communities of Lake County. Letters to the editor and other correspondence may be sent to The Chicago Peoples Voice, PO Box 1038, Waukegan, IL 60079. Email correspondence may be sent to [info@chicagopeoplesvoice.com](mailto:info@chicagopeoplesvoice.com). Our telephone number is 847-473-5501.

## Mayfield Renews Warnings of Coal Plant Hazards to Groundwater

WAUKEGAN, Ill. – Following a new report detailing multiple and repeated failures by Illinois power plants to take adequate steps to protect groundwater from dangerous contamination, state Rep. Rita Mayfield, D-Waukegan, is once again raising the alarm.

“Power companies have repeatedly assured us that their groundwater protection measures are sufficient and complained that concerns about the environmental impact of their operations are overblown, but now we see the truth they’ve been trying to cover up” Mayfield said. “These companies are not complying with regulations and have been polluting our groundwater all while hoping they wouldn’t get caught. This is unacceptable.”

The State Journal-Register on Nov. 4 reported that a study conducted by the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP), in conjunction with Earthjustice, found that multiple power plants in Illinois, including the Dallman plant in Springfield and the Marion plant in Marion, were found to have groundwater contaminants including arsenic, boron, cobalt and thallium at up to 63 times the safe levels. These substances are known to cause health problems when ingested, and can affect internal organs including the stomach, intestines, liver, kidneys, and brain.

The contamination is due at least in part to the widespread practice among power companies of dumping coal ash, which is a toxic byproduct of coal-fired power generation, in large “ponds.” Rules passed in 2015, with which many power companies routinely fail to comply, regulate the dumping and storage of coal ash and other contaminants. Mayfield in 2022 introduced House Bill 4358, to strengthen these rules. She became an advocate for stronger coal ash regulation due to the threat to groundwater and to Lake Michigan from a now-defunct coal power plant in Waukegan which was operated by power company NRG.

“It is time to stop listening to excuses and get serious. These companies are threatening the environment and public health with their irresponsible behavior and enough is enough,” Mayfield said. “They clearly do not believe the rules apply to them or that they will be held accountable, and so it falls to us to show them otherwise.”

Mayfield’s constituent service office is reachable at 847-599-2800 or 60thdistrict@gmail.com.

The Real Men Work organization is sponsoring a December Stay Warm Give Away we’re giving away warm food, socks, gloves, scarves, and hats. December 10th at 1 o’clock while supplies last.

Location, at Poppy’s Restaurant at 1535 Washington St. Waukegan, IL

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www.northchicago.org

### Grandparents and Kins Host Coat Give-A-Way

On a blustery, overcast and rainy November 5th morning, Grandparents and Kins Raising Children of Lake County held their annual Community Drive-Up Coat Give-a-way, known as Operation Warm at the New Tech Zion Benton East High School parking lot.

Under the direction of the founder and organizer, Harriet Holley, volunteers, friends, and students, who withstood the adverse weather to give back to their com-

munity gathered and worked together to make this event a success.

During the event, coats along with scarfs, hats, gloves and PPE kits were handed out for children as well as adults. About 450 coats were given away.

Sponsors of the Coat Give-A-Way were the Illinois Beach Sunrise Rotary, Coalition for Healthy Communities, Trinity Christian Center Mission, Zion Benton Township High School Honor Society Students, New Tech High Zion Benton East, Self-Storage of Beach Park, and Soaring Eagle Community Development.

# Treasurer Vance D. Wyatt Earns Certified Government Investment Professional Designation

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. (November 14th, 2022) — City Treasurer, Vance D. Wyatt received the Certified Government Investment Professional (CGIP) designation from Government Investment Officers Association (GIOA).

GIOA Mission Statement is Government Investment Officers are guardians of taxpayers’ monies. Pursuant to that duty, the mission of the GIOA is the education and training of Government Investment Officers to assist them in their responsibilities.

GIOA has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the continuing education of Government Investment Officers and Professionals nationwide. As a continuation of that mission, a team of dedicated investment professionals and longtime GIOA members have developed the Certified Government Investment Professional (CGIP) designation, and 20 courses specifically for individuals responsible for managing or supervising government investment portfolios.

Treasurer Wyatt is the first Treasurer in Illinois to receive the CGIP credential. He joins around 130 Public Treasurers and Public Funds Investment Managers around the nation to receive the credential.

This certification will help aid our City’s Treasurer’s office to maximize the city’s investment returns. “This year we have seen a significant increase in investment income; this certification will help enhance and grow the city’s portfolio,” said Treasurer Wyatt.

This designation will aid in helping the city to better invest its financial reserves to maximize return. Treasurer Wyatt explains that the long-term goal is to help keep taxes as low as possible, “we are looking to create an investment strategy that reduces the tax burden on the residents of North Chicago.





## 2022 Child Nutrition Summit

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## Coyotes In North Chicago?

Over the past several years, coyotes and fox sightings have become more prevalent within the city and surrounding communities. Although you may be shocked to see a coyote running through the city it is not unusual.

The question has been asked as to why the police department will not capture and remove these animals. According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, trying to reduce and control the coyote population will not work. The void created by a coyote's death or removal will be filled within three to four weeks. Coyotes are also intelligent animals and very difficult to catch in a live trap. Traps successfully used to capture coyotes are "snare" or "leg hold" traps which are dangerous to children as well as adults. Unless an animal has demonstrated aggressiveness toward a human or a domestic pet, the coyote should be left alone. In the event of aggressiveness, an Illinois Department of Natural Resources licensed trapper should be contacted to address the problem animal.

Families are like branches on a tree.  
We grow in different directions, but we remain as one.  
-Unknown

When we think of our family, our spouse, parents, or children, let us see them as a gift from God.  
-Dillon Burroughs

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# Seniors May Now Use Ride Lake County

Introducing Ride Lake County! Lake County, Pace Suburban Bus, and the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee (LCCTSC) came together with members of the community to launch Ride Lake County, a borderless, countywide paratransit service that provides transportation to anywhere in Lake County for seniors ages 60+ and people with disabilities.

## Registration

Before scheduling their first ride, residents must register through Pace by calling their call center at 1-800-201-6446. Residents can register as either a senior (60+) or as an individual with a disability:

The Pace Call Center will ask for birthdate information for residents registering as a senior.

The Pace Call Center will ask for an \*RTA Reduced Fare Permit number for residents registering as an individual with a disability

Registering as an individual with a disability

For riders registering as an individual with a disability, Ride Lake County is using the Reduced Fare Permit to verify the status of an individual's disability to determine eligibility. Riders registering as an individual with a disability can either provide proof of disability benefits or have their doctor fill out a proof of disability form to obtain the Reduced Fare Permit.

Riders can apply for the Reduced Fare Permit in the following ways:

Online at [fares.rtachicago.org](https://fares.rtachicago.org)

- 1) In-person at one of the RTA's local offices.
- 2) Please call 312-913-3110 to find the RTA office located nearest to you to fill out an application.
- 3) By mail or downloading application. application from the RTA website and mailing to the address listed on the application



## Booking a Trip

Residents can call the Pace Call Center at 1-800-201-6446 daily between 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. to book a trip.

Riders can schedule a trip any day of the week from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the exception of certain holidays. Riders can reserve a trip as far as seven days in advance or as little as two hours in advance.

Ride Lake County is sponsored by Lake County and Pace Suburban Bus. The service is funded in part by grants from the Regional Transportation Authority. Local matching funds for these federal grants are provided by Lake County.

## ILBCF: Health Initiative Brain Trust

The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation (ILBCF) is proud to announce its new Brain Trust on Health initiative, which includes a \$5,000 grant program for 11 qualified Black medical professionals, along with in-depth, collaborative efforts to eliminate systemic barriers to equitable healthcare facing Black communities across Illinois with both immediate and long-term solutions to ensure improved health outcomes.

These efforts specifically build upon the healthcare portion of the Caucus' landmark omnibus legislative package called the Four Pillars to End Systemic Racism. And qualified applicants must have completed a medical degree and are currently working as medical providers or practicing in a medical residency program. Recipients are permitted to put the grant towards previous academic debt. The ILBCF is dedicated to protecting, developing, and advancing black communities around Illinois. Our goal is to provide educational resources and financial opportunities for African American students throughout Illinois. In its commitment to supporting Black students who have entered the medical profession.

We understand the critical impact medical school debt has on graduates and we want to help relieve some of that burden. The chosen recipient will have a seat on a Brain Trust that will meet quarterly. The deadline to apply is December 1.

## Record Low Unemployment Claims

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced the state has recorded a new, unprecedented number of consecutive weeks below historic continued claims levels for regular unemployment insurance benefits. The most recent data reflects Illinois has remained below the 70,000 claims threshold for 26 consecutive weeks, with little more than 57,000 continued claims recorded last week.

The decrease in continued claims is a reflection of pandemic-related economic recovery and an indication the Illinois labor market remains strong. "As we continue to bounce back from the economic impacts of the pandemic, we are putting Illinois workers first. From our Get Hired Illinois website

to IDES' resume and interview skill-building workshops, we are mobilizing our resources to help our residents find good-paying jobs and advance their careers," said Governor JB Pritzker. In addition to providing unemployment insurance benefits, IDES provides access to a variety of training and employment services to help individuals find the next step in their careers.

These services include resume and interview skill-building workshops, virtual and in-person job and hiring fairs, and workforce training opportunities. The Get Hired Illinois site features virtual job fairs, and no-cost virtual training, and includes IllinoisJobLink.com. There are currently more than 162,000 jobs posted.

\*\*\*



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# North Chicago Hosts Festive Tree Lighting Event



**City Officials join Mayor Leon and First Lady Yvonne Rockingham in celebration of the holidays by lighting the official City of North Chicago Christmas Tree. In attendance were Alisa Stevens, Mrs. Illinois, State Senator Adriane Johnson, and State Representative Rita Mayfield.**

**T**he City of North Chicago held their annual Christmas Tree lighting service on November 28, 2022 to the delight of hundreds who gathered to see the spectacular event. Alisa Stevens, United States of America's Mrs. Illinois 2023, Miss North Chicago, and Little Miss North Chicago were on hand to highlight the festive occasion

Santa and Mrs. Clause made a special appearance from the North Pole, arriving in a fire truck rather than a sleigh.

"I like your North Chicago weather," Santa said as he addressed the gathering crowd. For November it was unseasonable warm, but very comfortable.

Regional dignitaries like State Senator Adriane Johnson, State Representative Rita Mayfield, Congressman Brad Schneider, and each the City's Alderpersons joined Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr. as they lit the Christmas Tree dazzling the crowd of about 200 people.

The event moved from outdoors to the inside of the fire department where celebrators were treated to pizza and hot chocolate served by volunteers from the Faith Lutheran Church of Lake Forest.

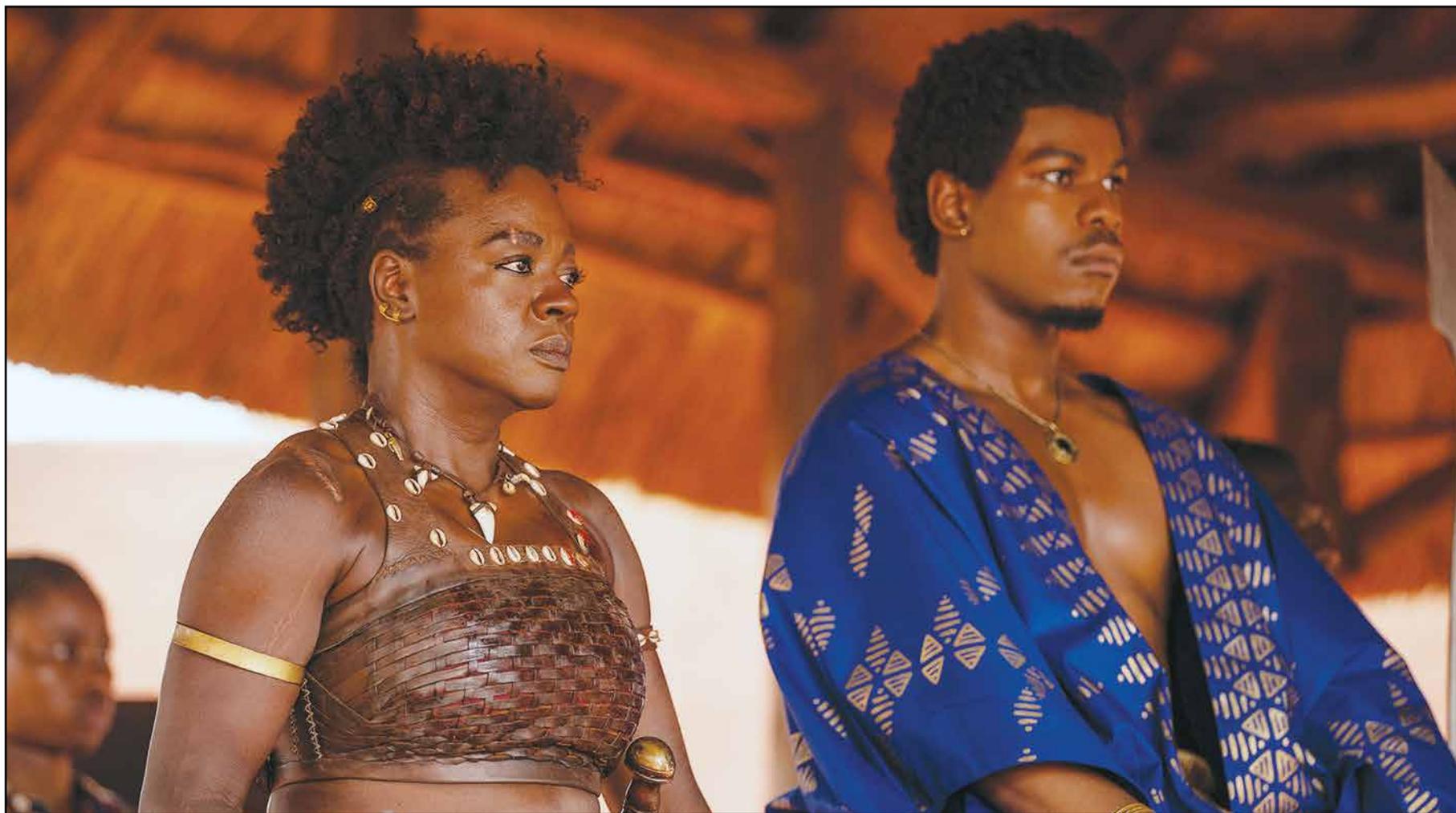
Each of the elected officials made encouraging comments. The highlight of the night for the children in attendance was an opportunity to meet with Santa and share their special wish for Christmas.

The highlight for the adults were to see Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr. singing Nat King Cole's The Christmas Song to the delight of the crowd who joined in on the last stanza.

It was a joyous occasion, one to remember.

-by Elroy Reed





Viola Davis as General Nanisca, and John Boyega as King Ghezo of Dahomey

# Movie Review – The Woman King

If I were to name the movie of the year, it would be *The Woman King*. This film rose above the CGI-Techno reliance of the modern high budget flick making era to deliver a suspenseful time-period phenomenal piece. All hinging on the brilliant performances of Viola Davis, who proved herself not only as a character actress, but as a leading lady. This one has Oscar Dust all over it.

*The Woman King* is based on a true story with Viola Davis (General Nanisca) of the Dahomey tribe who trains female warriors for battle to protect the kingdom. They were known for their fierce fighting skills. The fight scenes and acting in this film were superb.

In comparison to the much anticipated *Wakanda Forever*, *The Woman King* was a better movie – not to knock the Marvel Studio Black Panther Franchise hit. *Wakanda Forever* was good as well.

What I like most about the *Woman King*, was the well-integrated mother-daughter story line blended into the movie. I will not spoil the plot for those who have not seen it, but this is what block busters are made of.

Finally, I loved the end, where the heroine was elevated to Woman King alongside the traditional male king model, a first for the society of the time. Directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood, this movie did \$66.6 million in its first theater run. It' production budget was \$50 million.

- Elroy Reed



Viola Davis as General Nani-Rambha, and John Boyega as King Ghezo of Dahomey

# Movie Review – Wakanda Forever

I liked it, but I didn't like it. The movie did not disappoint in its techno-wizardry or in its believable weave of an ancient society with the modern world. Nor did it disappoint in its visceral beauty weaving traditional African pageantry in to amazing costumes, dances, and festive occasions that will leave you breathless. For instance, Angela Bassett (Queen Ramonda) donned a headdress that filled the room and bespoke of her authority, class, and dignity.

And while I loved Chadwick Boseman's (King T'Challa) memorial photos, too much of his death was over shadowing the story line to the point that it made the new villain story line seem frail and even pretentious.

But I must say that I was mesmerized by the costumes, the dance, the action, the beauty and grace of the Amazon style African Warriors and the beauty of the general Wakanda dysphoria.

One thing about the movie that gave me the wrong rub. They killed off Angela Bassett's character (The Mother of King T'Challa). What a downer. Overall, the good overshadowed the bad. I look forward to the next release in this franchise.

Directed by Ryan Coogler, this movie cost about \$250 million to make, but has grossed over \$675 million as of the writing of this review.

-Elroy Reed

# What's the difference between 988, 911, 211/311 and other local hotlines?

## 988

- Suicide prevention and mental health crisis lifeline
- Access point to statewide community-based crisis resources such as mobile crisis outreach teams
- Specialized intervention by certified crisis workers with advanced training in de-escalation and clinical suicide prevention
- Confidential, free, and available 24/7/365

## 911

- Emergency line for public safety emergencies, medical emergencies, and law enforcement
- Provides limited de-escalation or emotional support; staffed with public safety answering point dispatch workers
- Offers de-escalation under emergency situations rather than de-escalation under a mental health crisis situation that 988 offers
- If the public safety or medical emergency is pertaining to someone who has a mental health condition, or appears to be experiencing a mental health crisis, a crisis intervention team (CIT) trained officer with basic training in mental health crises may be available through 911 dispatch
- Free, and available 24/7/365

## 211/311

- Resource support line that links callers to resources
- Ability to transfer callers to the Lifeline Line
- Free, and available 24/7/365
- 311 is specific to Chicago and Cook County, while 211 is available in Lake County facilitated by United Way of Lake County

# Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday has received support from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Craig Newmark Philanthropies, Emerson Collective, Fidelity Charitable, the Ford Foundation, the Ford Motor Company, PayPal, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. As an organization, Giving Tuesday promotes the concept of “generosity not as a benevolence that the haves show to the have-nots but rather an expression of mutuality, solidarity, and reciprocity.” To that end, they execute several year-round activities to support the generosity sector around the world.

Giving Tuesday has a global presence through 75 country movements spanning the world, each representing their own cultures and needs, while remaining united in their determination to mobilize their countries around generosity and shared humanity. In each country, a team of entrepreneurial leaders work with their own ecosystems of communities, nonprofits, platforms, religious institutions, families, schools, and private sector partners to drive increased giving, connection, and innovation.

At a local and cause level, Giving Tuesday operates through a network of leaders working toward a common goal. Around the world, hundreds

of Giving Tuesday communities are led by a range of hand raisers: community foundations, nonprofits, giving groups, giving circles, and social activists. In the U.S. alone, more than 240 Giving Tuesday communities and coalitions drive generosity among people with a common connection to a geography, cause, culture or identity. -

Merry Christmas  
Happy New Year  
Celebrate Kwanzaa  
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## The Legend of The Candy Cane

According to the legend of the candy cane, this candy was first created back in the 18th century. At that time, in certain areas of Europe, there was said to be a ban on public displays of Christianity. Christians were oppressed and no Bibles or crosses could be owned at the time. One man found this oppression distressing and wished he could share the love of Jesus and the joy of Christmas with the rest of the world.

When Christmas came around, children didn't get to see nativity scenes or enjoy learning about the truth of Christmas. As a candy maker, this man prayed to find a way that he could offer local children a Christmas gift that would allow him to communicate the real story of Christmas.



## NORTH SHORE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**Terry V. Atwater, Minister**

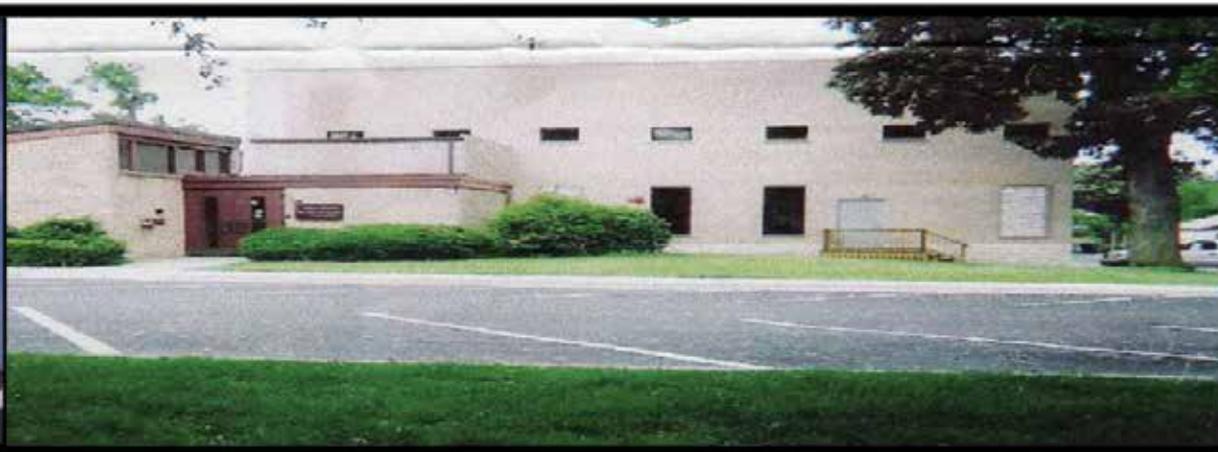
Bro. Robert Palmore, Sr, Assoc. Minister

**ELDERS:**

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Bro. Terry Atwater II; Bro. Brian Isom; Bro. James Slay, Jr.; Bro. Marvin McBrid, Sr.

**DEACONS:**

Bro. L. C. Jones; Bro. Isaiah Henry;  
Bro. Victor Gaston; Bro. Duke Albama



~ **WORSHIP SERVICES & CLASSES** ~

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes 9:30 AM  
Worship Services 10:45 AM & 6:00 PM  
Mid-week Bible Study  
Wed. 7:00 PM Thurs. 9:30 AM

**Thursday**

Youth Life & Learning Center—7:00 PM

~ **COMMUNITY SERVICES** ~

Substance Abuse Programs  
Sunday; Tuesday; Friday;  
Saturday, — 7:00 PM  
Saturday  
Food For Body & Soul (Soup Kitchen)  
11:00 AM—12:45 PM

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

December 2022

THEME:

CIVICS 101

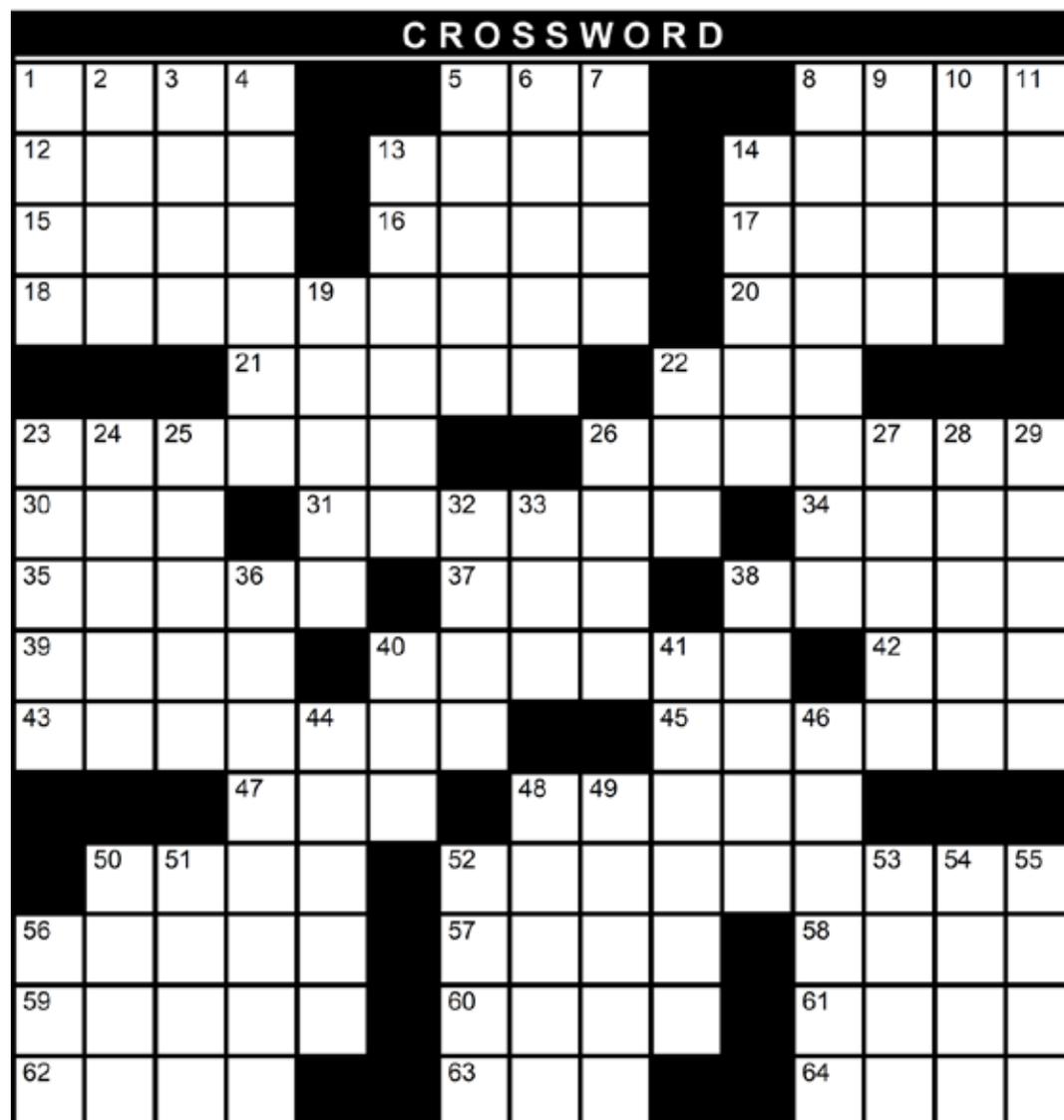
## ACROSS

1. Tart spicy quality  
 5. \*Senators each represent an area on it  
 8. Jamaican rub  
 12. Succulent medicinal plant  
 13. Tiny piece  
 14. Home to Burj Khalifa  
 15. Sail support  
 16. Sensory input  
 17. Bedazzle, e.g.  
 18. \*One making SCOTUS nominations  
 20. Grape holder  
 21. Japanese cartoon  
 22. Drunkard's sound?  
 23. \*First Lady, acr.  
 26. Singer, songwriter, musician Jon \_\_\_\_\_  
 30. Stumblebum  
 31. Kind of monkey  
 34. In a little while, to Shakespeare  
 35. Speedily  
 37. M in rpm, abbr.  
 38. North face, e.g.  
 39. Toy brick  
 40. Typical revolver  
 42. "The One I Love" group  
 43. The \_\_\_\_\_ Man, internet meme  
 45. Table linens  
 47. Wow!  
 48. Instruct  
 50. Delhi draping dress  
 52. \*#18 Across' branch

- of government  
 56. Shipping weights  
 57. Three blind ones  
 58. Field worker  
 59. Spot for FitBit  
 60. Defender of skies, acr.  
 61. Actor Wilson  
 62. Bookie's number  
 63. Wilbur's home  
 64. Back of the neck

## DOWN

1. Pack down  
 2. Resembling wings  
 3. Rudolph's beacon  
 4. Reaches (2 words)  
 5. Computer accessory  
 6. Do penitence  
 7. Chipper  
 8. \*SCOTUS' branch of government  
 9. Jet black  
 10. Steak option  
 11. Kith partner  
 13. In style  
 14. Part of affidavit  
 19. Harden  
 22. Owns  
 23. Mare's babies  
 24. Spot for boutonniÈre  
 25. Allowed into a bar (2 words)  
 26. Plug for a barrel  
 27. *Zzzz*  
 28. Drinker  
 29. Opposing military force  
 32. Arabian chieftain  
 33. \*U.S. Senator's term, in years  
 36. \*Legislative assembly with power to declare



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- war  
 38. Mix-up  
 40. Monkey \_\_\_\_\_, monkey do  
 41. United Nation's children-benefiting org.  
 44. Type of believer  
 46. Kaa of "The Jungle

- Book"  
 48. Be  
 49. Tooth trouble  
 50. Deep-red variety of chalcedony  
 51. Bone-dry  
 52. Outback birds  
 53. Between Minnesota

- and Missouri  
 54. \*Same as V.P.  
 55. European sea eagle  
 56. \*U.S. Representative's term, in years

# Think Life



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