

THE HEART & SOUL
OF CHICAGO

SEPTEMBER 2023
FREE



CHICAGO PEOPLES VOICE

Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church Celebrates Land Mark Status, 119th Anniversary



See story beginning page 6



3 Ways People of All Ages Can Give Back

(StatePoint) No matter your age, it's likely you've questioned your ability to make a difference. Research from the global nonprofit Points of Light shows that 73% of people believe that volunteering is more important than ever, yet 66% think they can't make a big

The E.Reed Report: September

impact in their communities. Activists on the ground prove otherwise. That's why Points of Light, which is dedicated to inspiring and equipping people to take action, has recognized thousands of volunteers for their contributions to their communities through The Daily Point of Light Award.

"Points of Light's research found that Gen Z is the most civically engaged generation to date. Our youth honorees demonstrate that people of all ages can strengthen communities and solve persistent problems," says Diane Quest, interim CEO, Points of Light.

To inspire you to action, the organization is sharing the stories of youth honorees, along with three elements from The Points of Light Civic Circle®, a framework for helping individuals get civically engaged:

Volunteer

Nonprofit organizations and NGOs need volunteer power to deliver support to the communities they collaborate with. If you're an adult wanting to facilitate youth volunteerism, consider organizing a youth-specific event or helping transport the young people in your life to an event. To find a volunteer opportunity that aligns with your interests and availability, check out Points of Light Engage, a database with hundreds of thousands of in-person and virtual volunteer opportunities.

The power of volunteering is apparent when considering Daily Point of Light Award honoree Nate Buescher, a high schooler who prepares food for a local food pantry and distributes home-cooked

meals to tent cities around Chicago. Buescher began fighting food insecurity at age 7 with the Honeycomb Project. Today, he mentors younger volunteers while maintaining his own service projects.

Voice

The youth voice is vital, pointing us to which concerns are most important to future world leaders and helping broaden perspectives. Use your voice to advocate for causes you care about by posting on social media, attending a rally or contacting a government leader. Adults can amplify youth voices by sharing with their networks, or organizing forums for youth to be seen and heard.

Seventeen-year-old Daily Point of Light Award honoree Maanit Goel used his voice when organizing a rally of fellow activists on the Washington State Capitol steps to support legislation protecting the Chinook salmon and orca populations. He also regularly addresses state legislators, and travels statewide to speak to K-12 students about environmental issues.

Listen and Learn

Social justice and environmental issues are nuanced, involving many people with different perspectives shaped by their own experiences. Listening and learning is one way to honor others' lived experiences and get a fuller scope of an issue.

Young people can commit to thoroughly researching causes they care about, talking to those working toward solutions and holding space for those impacted. Adults can connect with the young people in their lives, inviting dialogue that allows for sharing different perspectives and finding common ground.

These are the driving ideas behind the work of high schooler Kristie To, who became a leading force in Asian American racial justice when she founded Hearts Against Hate. Among the initiatives of her nonprofit is distributing Asian history and Asian American Pacific Islander civil rights curriculum to children.

"Cultural sensitivity starts with exposure, and that's what we're trying to do with these elementary schoolers," says To.

To learn about other avenues for social engagement, check out the Points of Light Civic Circle by visiting pointsoflight.org/civic-circle.

"There are many formal channels for civic engagement, but simple actions make a difference too," says Quest. "Whether it's carrying groceries in for a neighbor or donating books to the library, the important thing is to get started when you see a need in your community."

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. Our telephone number is 847-473-5501.

Johnson announces \$121 million in infrastructure improvements coming to Lake County and North Chicago

Springfield, August 07, 2023 - Building upon the smart infrastructure investments supported by State Senator Adriane Johnson, the Illinois Department of Transportation announced an investment of \$121 million in road and bridge improvement projects coming to the area.

“Through these investments, both local residents and tourists will be able to travel more safely,” said Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove). “By investing in our infrastructure, we are investing in our communities.”

As part of IDOT’s latest Multi-Year Plan under Rebuild Illinois, the district Johnson represents will see 27 infrastructure projects totaling more than \$121 million over the next six years.

Some of the most vital projects coming to the area include:

- 1) Over \$12 million in upgrades and repairs to US-45 on Buffalo Grove Road in Vernon Hills;
- 2) Over \$16 million in upgrades and repairs to IL Route 60/83 from Maple Avenue to the Canadian National Railroad crossing;
- 3) Over \$68 million in pavement rehabilitation and improvements to IL Route 60/83 to Midlothian Road in Mundelein and Long Grove;

4) Over \$2 million for bridge replacement on Belvidere Street over CNW RR and ILL 137 in Waukegan;

5) Over \$1 million in upgrades and repairs to Dugdale Road from 14th Street to Argonne Drive;

6) Over \$6 million in upgrades and repairs to Greenwood Avenue west of Pershing Road.

These projects are part of IDOT’s Multi-Year Plan, a \$40 billion investment in construction projects for the next six fiscal years. The project invests in all modes of transportation: roads and bridges, aviation, transit, freight and passenger rail, waterways, as well as bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

“These investments won’t just bring forth safer, stronger infrastructure, they will bring forth good paying jobs to help stabilize our local economy,” said Johnson.

To find a full list of projects slated for the 30th Senate District, visit IDOT’s website.

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North Chicago Hosts Community Days



North Chicago held their annual Community Days celebration the first weekend of August in Vision Park. The three-day event was packed with musical entertainment, food and family fun.

North Chicago is home to a very diverse population. Thanks to being home of Naval Station Great Lakes and Rosalind Franklin University, the community draws many backgrounds, races and nationalities that celebrate both unity and diversity as neighbors.

“A celebration of peace, inclusivity and the unity of one human family is our goal, and we welcome all to celebrate with North Chicago,” say Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.



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Mayfield Passes Law To Create Statewide Literacy Education Plan

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will be required to create a statewide literacy plan by early 2024 under a newly-effective law sponsored by state Rep. Rita Mayfield, D-Waukegan.

“Education is the cornerstone of the economy and every other initiative important to our communities—and literacy, in turn, is the cornerstone of education,” Mayfield said. “That’s why it’s such a problem that we’re seeing so many Illinois students who are falling behind or not reading at grade level. It was clear that something had to be done, and this is the foundation of that ‘something.’”


Mayfield sponsored Senate Bill 2243 which requires ISBE to consult with stakeholders and then create a statewide literacy plan by no later than January 31, 2024. The plan is required to cover core instructional practices, screening tools to identify those having difficulties, guidance tailored for literacy interventions for K-2 and 3-12 students, the impact

of second language acquisition and bilingual education, development of curriculum and coaching practices, and training opportunities for educators, among other factors.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently signed the bill into law, and it took effect immediately.

“Every child both needs and deserves access to an effective, high-quality literacy education,” Mayfield said. “Where, for whatever reason, that isn’t happening, it’s important that educators, administrators, families and public officials be on the same page so that the problem can be identified and addressed—and that level of coordinated response starts with having a plan.”

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Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church Celebrates 119th Church Anniversary



Pastor Barbra Brown

The newly historically land marked Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church celebrates their 119th Church Anniversary during their regular worship service on Sunday, September 10, 2023 beginning at 11:00 am.

Their theme is “On This Solid Rock We Stand – The Strength and Stability of a Strong Church” based on the scriptural text of Matthew 16:18.

Standing in strength, longevity and on the Word of God, are good ways to describe the legacy of both the Trinity A.M.E Church of Waukegan as well as their pastor, The Reverend Barbara Brown.

Characterized by her members as a loving and people person, Pastor Barbara Brown carries the distinction of being the second female pastor of the church, which over the course of its inception, has hosted more than 23 pastors.

Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1904 in Waukegan, IL by spiritual leaders, Mr. Edward Cunningham, Mr.

Thomas Porter Jr., Deaconess Mrs. Fannie Boyd, Mrs. Fannie McIntosh and daughters, Etta Euphemia, and Lillian; Stewardesses: Mrs. Ella Porter, Mrs. Procter, Mrs. Frances, Robertson, and Mr. and Mrs. Green Tarver and Daughters, Gussie and Elizabeth and others who names are not known.

Not only is Trinity AME the first Black church in Waukegan, it is referred to by many as “the Mother of all Negro Churches” in Lake County, because numerous other churches as well as pastors came from its membership. The church is noted for its historical leadership of the Civil Rights movement in Lake County. The facility is surrounded on three sides by public housing.

“We have seasoned members who have been with us for 80 years and more. We recently celebrated the birthdays of Sister Mary Ford (97) and Sister Fannie Bullocks (98). “Both have been with Trinity AME since childhood,” says Pastor Brown. “We have many families with rich membership histories at Trinity AME. They include: Mrs. Joyce Epperson, Mrs. Dorothy Bulls, Mrs. Helen Ricks, Mrs. Geneva Price, Mrs. Ella Williams, Mrs. Lottie McMillion, Mr. Timothy, Mr. Jerome Clark, Mrs. Billie Washington, Mrs. Ovella Cooper, Mrs. Rayevyn Curry, Mrs. Myrtis Barker, Mr. Eugene Payne, and many others. All of the members mentioned are over 80 years old and attend most Sundays.”

Continued next page



The Trinity Billboard is a Welcome Sign to the Southside Community.



Above: Members of the Trinity AME Church Leadership gather for an event. Below: Men of Trinity gather for a special program.



Pastor Brown says that long time community leader, Barbara Gordon (who ran Head Start for more than 30 years) placed Trinity AME's name on the list with the Waukegan Historical Preservation Commission before retiring from working with the housing authority. Church Land mark committee members Sister Dorothy Bulls, Sister Joyce Epperson and Dr. Harlene Ricks Shipley spearheaded the quest to achieve Landmark Status.

"Dr. Harlene Ricks Shipley introduced us to Bryan Escobar, Cultural Arts Supervisor- Museum Curator, and Ty Roher from the Waukegan Historical Society," explains Pastor Brown. "They met with us to discuss the application process. On March 3, 2023, we presented our application for Landmark Status to the Waukegan Historical Preservation Commission."

The full Waukegan City Council approved the Land Mark Status on

May 5, 2023.

On September 7, 2023, the Waukegan Historical Preservation Commission, the Waukegan Historical Society, along with the City of Waukegan, will present the historical land marker at the church, located at 210 South Avenue, in Waukegan. There will be a reception immediately afterwards at the Dandelion Gallery at 109 S. Genesee Street. The 119 Church Anniversary Worship service will be held at the church on Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 11:00 am.

"We have served well the southeast side of Waukegan and feel we are here for a reason and that reason is to make a difference in the lives of those who live in this community," says Senior Pastor Barbara Brown.

- Elroy Reed

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Evangelize, Educate, and Encourage the People of God."
Matthew 28:18-20*

Trinity AME Hosts Cares Fest

The Trinity AME Church of Waukegan held their annual Cares Fest, Saturday, August 19, 2023. Hundreds came through the event which featured talented performances by Antioch Baptist Church, Pastor Corey Ratliff, Robert Presley and the African Drummers and a DJ.

Rosalind Franklin's Health Clinics Mobile Unit, The Waukegan Township Art Bus, The North Chicago Public Library and several organizations were on hand to provide community based information and back to school products for kids.

There were free haircuts for boys and girls as well as complimentary hair braiding on the spot. Several area political figures including Congressman Brad Schneider, Alderman Keith Turner, Kim Holly, Judge John Joanem, Dr. Daisy Brooks, Alderman Michael Jackson, Commissioner Mary Cunningham and Alderwoman Sylvia Sims dropped by.

Pastor Barbara Brown is the Senior Pastor for Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church, the second oldest Black churches in Lake County.



Dr. Daisy Brooks



Congressman Brad Schneider, Judge John Joanem, Pastor Barbara Brown, and Keisha Adams share a moment at the Trinity Cares Fest.



Pastor Barbara Brown joins in the fun with Robert Presley and the African American Drummer Troop.



Women of the AKA Sorority distributed Afro-centric coloring books and crayon to youth as back to school supplies. Pictured are Michelle Jadon, Wendy Lovelace, Sondra Thomas-Lyon, Tiffany Davis, and Cynthia Jackson.



Trinity AME Trustee Raevelyn Curry volunteered and helped manage the event.

Think Family



*then
think
again...*

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Park District Hosts Cemetery Walk

The Waukegan Park District and the Waukegan Historical Society are partnering to host the 28th Annual Oakwood Cemetery Walk on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 12pm to 3:30pm at Oakwood Cemetery. The Oakwood Cemetery Walk is an annual “living history” event, showcasing the rich history of Waukegan using costumed actors to portray local historic figures with connections to the cemetery and city. More information and advance tickets are available at waukeganparks.org/oakwood.

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Lake County Housing Authority Opens Waiting List

The Lake County Housing Authority announced the opening of the 3- and 4-Bedroom Scattered Site Waiting Lists and Shiloh Towers Studio Waiting List. These waiting lists will be opening September 1st, 2023 for pre-applications and closing September 30th, 2023.

Pre-applications received before September first will not be accepted. One pre-application per head of household will be allowed. Pre-applications are available online only; no paper pre-applications will be available or accepted.

To apply online beginning September first please visit <https://www.waitlistcheck.com/IL1157>

If you require a reasonable accommodation due to an obstacle that prevents you from participating in the online waiting list application process, please submit your request in writing on our before 9/12/23 including your name address and current phone number to: Lake County Housing Authority, Attn: Scattered Sites Waiting List Pre-Application, 33928 N US Highway 45, Grayslake, IL 60030

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Worship Services 10:45 AM & 6:00 PM
Mid-week Bible Study
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Thursday
Youth Life & Learning Center—7:00 PM

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