Feds fumbled, JB says

Sent wrong health equipment in latest order

By Ben Orner
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. JB Pritzker said this week that the federal government sent Illinois 300,000 of the wrong type of mask for personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to protect health care workers treating COVID-19 patients.

In his daily press briefing about the novel coronavirus disease outbreak Monday in Chicago, Pritzker said the state’s third shipment of relief supplies from the feds arrived Sunday, but likely includes 300,000 surgical masks instead of the N95 respirator masks Illinois requested.

“We do not have a final count on this yet, I can say with certainty that what they sent were not the N95 masks that were promised, but instead were surgical masks, which is not what we asked for,” Pritzker said.

Made of thin fabric and held loosely onto the face, surgical masks do not provide as much protection against COVID-19 as N95 masks, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Surgical masks create a loose barrier for the mouth and nose against coughs and sneezes, while tight-fitting N95 masks are able to “filter small particles from the air and prevent leakage around the edge of the mask when the user inhales.”

“PPE is the first line of defense for our health care workers. It’s not a luxury that they should have to ration,” Pritzker said.

A consistent critic of the federal response, Pritzker added that the size of the latest federal shipment “still pales in comparison to our requests and appears to be even smaller than our previous two shipments.”

“I can’t emphasize enough how much we need the federal government to step up and amplify the size of their PPE deliveries to Illinois and, frankly, across the nation,” Pritzker said.

Other than receiving federal shipments, the state is responsible for buying its own PPE on the open market, often negotiating against other states, nations and even the U.S. government.

By the end of this week, Pritzker said, the state will have received 5.5 million N95 masks and 5.55 million surgical masks from shipments it purchased.

“In the absence of aggressive action from the federal government, my team will continue to run down every possible lead to get what we need,” he said.

Convention hall turned hospital

Pritzker announced Monday that McCormick Place will soon be converted into a field hospital for COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms who do not require intensive care.

We’re open, but... Preckwinkle details Forest Preserves actions

By Tim Hadac

The Forest Preserves of Cook County remain open, but certain locations have been closed.

Cook County Board of Commissioners President Toni Preckwinkle said last Sunday at a Southwest Side press conference.

Preckwinkle, who also serves as president of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, came to Dan Ryan Woods to make the announcement.

A different kind of Congressional seat

Modeling social distancing for his constituents, U.S. Rep. Jesús “Chuy” García (D-4th) last week traded his executive office chair for the couch in the living room of his Little Village home. But rather than relaxing, the congressman said he has been “organizing daily calls and video conferences with community groups, small businesses, my House colleagues and my staff to find ways to slow the spread of the coronavirus and give working families the resources they need during this difficult time.”

“We’re open, but... Preckwinkle details Forest Preserves actions

INSIDE THIS WEEK’S NEWS-HERALD

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BERNADETTE A. BATTAGLIA
Bernadette A. Battaglia (nee Mastej), age 68, of Chicago, West Elenon community, passed away March 22.
Beloved wife of Frank Battaglia; loving Mother of Rebecca (Dan) Broderick, Philip (Libby) Battaglia, Douglas (Beth) Battaglia, Victor Battaglia and Matthew Battaglia; proud grandmother of Eliza- beth Broderick, James Broderick, Jack Broderick, Emilia Battaglia, Lila Battaglia and Henry Battaglia; cherished sister of Jane Zaklewski, and Frank Mastej.
Due to the Covid-19 Virus concerns, burial is private. A memorial Mass in Bernadette's honor will be held at a later date.

ANDRZEJ BIALO
Andrzej Bialo, age 49, passed away March 22.
Beloved husband of Beata (nee Onak) Bialo; loving father of Anna Bialo, Andrzej Bialo, Maria Bialo and Eva Bialo; cherished son of Maria and the late Jan Bialo; dear brother of Monika (Janusz) Gajda. Also survived by aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives and friends.
Memorial services will be held at a later date and time. Funeral arrangements entrusted to care of Damar-Kaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7861 S. 88th Avenue, Justice. 708-496-0208 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

ANIELA BUKOWSKA
Aniela Bukowska (nee Komperda), age 87, of Summit, passed away March 24.
Beloved wife of the late Roman Bukowski; loving mother of Roman (Danuta) Bukowski, Zofia (Stanislaw) Wilkowskii, Maria Bukowska, and Malgorzata (Wladyslaw) Balczyn; proud grandmother of Joanna, Dariusz, Danuta, and Agnieszka; dear great grandmother of Theodore “Teddy” Stevens.

DAVID FEDDOR
David Feddor, age 52, of Stone Park, passed away March 23.
Devoted son of the late Edward Feddor Sr.; cherished brother of Edward (Catherine) Feddor, Chris (Christine) Feddor, Catherine Filano and Karen (Todd) Wehl; fond uncle of Rebecca, Rachel, Katie and John Feddor, Jerry Wehl, Nicholas and Carolyn Filano and Edward Feddor III; dear nephew of Rudy (Maureen), Kopriva and Gene Feddor.
Due to the circumstances regarding the COVID-19 virus, services will be private. A celebration of David’s life will be held at a later date. Please omit flowers. Condolences may be sent to David’s family on his personal tribute website at www.foranfuneralhome.com 708-458-0208.

CECELIA HELTON
Cecelia M. Helton (nee Marthey), age 85, of Justice, passed away March 21.
Beloved wife of the late Winston; loving mother of Cheryl (late Preston) Marthey; fond sister of the late Lenie (Bob) Marthey; fond daughter of the late Glenn (Connie) Marthey, late Joseph (late Judy), late Garret (Glenna) Marthey, late Evelyn Sampels, late John (late Carolee), late Susan and late Claude Marthey; dear cousin of Joan and Patty.
Cecelia will be missed by her many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews and friends.
Due to the COVID-19 concerns, visitation and burial will be private. A service in celebration of Cecelia’s life will be held at a later date. Condolences may be sent to Cecelia’s family on her personal tribute website at: www.foranfuneralhome.com 708-458-0208.

MARIAN R. LOCONSOLE
Marian R. Loconsole (nee Carillo), age 85, of Chicago, Clearring community, passed away March 22.
Beloved wife of Onofrio Sr.; loving mother of Onofrio (Donna) Loconsole, Teresa Carl and Samuel Loconsole; dear granddaughter of Onofrio, Christian Loconsole and John Carl; dearest sister of Salavatore (Sara) Carillo and the late Frank (Alice) Carillo; sister-in-law of Victoria (Terrence) Mescha and the late Antionette, late Frank, late Angelina, late Joseph, late Dominick, late Michael, late Renzo and late Franki. A service to celebrate Marian’s life will be scheduled for a later date. Condolences may be sent to Marian’s family on her personal tribute website at: www.foranfuneralhome.com 708-458-0208.

JOHN M. SCELONGE
John M. Scelonge, age 70, of Chicago, Heart of Chicago community, passed away March 22.
Loving son of the late John and late Sophia (nee Senica) Seblonge; beloved brother of Joyce (late Preston) Knappcz; dear uncle of Paula (Gregory) Srelichzyk, Kathleen (Sean) Devine, Cosimir Knappcz, Matthew Knappcz, Julie (Daniel) Rice and Edward Knappcz; great uncle of Ella, Stephen, Sophia, Josephine and Preston. John will be dearly missed by his many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. John had worked as an operating engineer for the City of Chicago, Streets and Sanitation.
Due to the COVID-19 virus services are private. A memorial Mass and celebration of John’s life will be scheduled for a later date. Condolences may be sent to John’s family on his personal tribute website at www.foranfuneralhome.com 708-458-0208.

ANGIE TRYBULA
Angie Trybula (nee Pavlikowski), age 75, of Pake Heights and formerly of Chica- go, Back of the Yards, Oak Lawn, Chicago Ridge, Burbank, passed away March 26.
Beloved wife of the late Stanley J. Trybu- la; loving mother of Stanley B. (Patricia Linnane) and Christopher J. (Maureen) Trybula; cherished grandmother of Shel- by, Michael, Brianna, Ella and Nora; fond sister of the late Marina and late Jan; of many nieces and nephews.
A private family visitation will be at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Ltd. 8990 S. Archer Avenue, Willow Springs. Funeral services Internment Resurrection Cemetery. A fu- ture memorial Mass will be scheduled. Mrs. Trybula was a retired supervisor for a cleaning maintenance company. 708-839-8999 or www.ZarzyckiManorChapels.com.

2 GREATER SOUTHWEST NEWS-HERALD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020
The day or time of day in which a claimant was laid-off or fired will not affect whether you re-
fit claims, an increase of close to 400 percent com-
pared to the corresponding weeks the prior year. The
department received close to 115,000 claims for the
week of March 21 alone, an increase of nearly 1,400
weekly claims, a mix of people who need to ad-
just their finances, per day. The adminis-
tration and the department understand and empathize
with the heightened level of frustration this crisis has
brought on those wishing to file claims.

Call Center Filing Schedule:
• Those with last names beginning with letters A-M will be asked to call on
Tuesdays and Thursdays between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
• Those with last names beginning with letters N-Z will be asked to call on
Mondays and Wednesdays between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Saturdays will be available for anyone to accommodate those who could not file during their allotted window.

Online Filing Schedule:
• Those with last names beginning with letters A-M will be asked to file their claims on
Saturdays, Tuesdays or Thursdays.
• Those with last names beginning with letters N-Z will be asked to file their claims on
Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays.

Call center staff has been supplemented by 40 percent to cut down on wait times.
Both the website and the call center will continue to be monitored for improvements in functions and abilities.

In addition to these measures, IDES is now asking individuals to adhere to an alphabetized schedule when filing an unemployment benefit claim online and over the phone. This process mirrors other states, such as California and New York, which are experiencing increased web traffic and high call volumes with their unemployment benefit systems.

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Saturdays, Tuesdays or Thursdays.

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Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays.

Additional improvements in functions and utility assistance, as well as direct financial assistance due to recent job loss as a result of COVID-19. These grant recipients are a mix of broad reach organizations that have the infrastructure to deploy emergency services to a large number of residents; and targeted reach organizations that act as hubs in communities and serve hard-hit households.

The initial grant recipients are: Access Living, All Chicago, Alliance to End Homelessness, American Red Cross, Austin Coming Together, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, Catholic Charities, Chicago Federation of Labor’s Workforce and Community Initiative, Chicagoland United for Equity, Children’s First Fund, Claren
tian Associates, Communities United, Cornerstone Community Development Corporation (The Hub) DC, Cradles to Crayons, DuPage Senior Citizens Council (Meals on Wheels - DuPage), Enlace, Family Independence, Family Independence, Greater Chicago Food De-

A list of Fund recipients, along with a short description of the services and support they are providing is available at chicago-
covid19responsefund.org.

Mayor praises Food Depository

Mayor Lori Lightfoot stopped by the Archer Heights headquarters of the Greater Chicago Food Depository last week to give thanks and encouragement to volunteers. She also took the time to leave uplifting messages on several emergency food boxes, which will go out to families dealing with the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Several Southwest Side not-for-profits are among the 42 organizations receiving a share of some $3.5 million in grant support from the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund.

The Chicago Communi-
ty Trust and United Way of Metro Chicago in partner-
ship with the City of Chi-
cago has raised more than $13.5 million since in March 17 launch, thanks to local philanthropy, business lead-
ers and individual donors.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository (headquartered in Archer Heights), the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, the Inner City Muslim Action Network and the Southwest Organizing Project are among the recipients.

A CFT representative refused to disclose how much funding each will receive.

A Trust statement said, “The first round of fund-
ing prioritized support to nonprofit organizations that provide community safety nets, such as emer-
gency food and supplies, mortgage and utility as-
sistance, as well as direct financial assistance due to recent job loss as a result of COVID-19. These grant recipients are a mix of broad reach organizations that have the infrastruc-
ture to deploy emergency services to a large number of residents; and targeted reach organizations that act as hubs in communities and serve hard-hit house-
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From staff reports

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Depart-
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curity (IDES) last week announced they are taking additional steps to address the unprecedented volume of unemployment bene-
fit claims the department has fielded as a result of
COVID-19.

To date, the department has taken several steps to improve the unemployment benefit claims process via the online portal and the call center.

• The website has been moved to new hardware infrastructure to handle the increased demand.
• Web, storage and processing capacity has been increased to meet needs of increased traffic.
• Methods have been implemented to track COVID-19-related claims.
• Call center capacity has been increased.
• Daily call center hours have been extended to respond to those waiting in the queue after closure.

JB announces changes to aid the unemployed

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fit claims, an increase of close to 400 percent com-
pared to the corresponding weeks the prior year. The
department received close to 115,000 claims for the
week of March 21 alone, an increase of nearly 1,400
per week compared to the corresponding week the prior year.

Additionally, the call center continues to field hundreds of calls per min-
ute, per day. The adminis-
tration and the department understand and empathize with the heightened level of frustration this crisis has
brought on those wishing to file a claim.

Those with questions or in need of assistance with unemployment benefit at this time are encouraged to visit IDES.Illinois.gov.
From staff reports

Two robberies in the south end of Back of the Yards have prompted police to issue a community alert.

In each case, two offenders approached a victim and demanded their valuables. Police did not say if the robberies were armed or not.

The offenders were described only as black males, ages 25-35.

Crime scenes include:
- 5400 block of South Hermitage at 4:45 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 29.
- 4700 block of South Sawyer at 12:08 a.m. Saturday, March 21.

Those with useful information to share about the crimes are asked to call CLPD Area Central detectives at (312) 747-8382 and refer to crime pattern P20-1-104.

Police advise:
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Report suspicious activity immediately.
- If you are confronted by an assailant, remain calm.

Police warn residents of burglars in Chicago Lawn

Four residential burglaries in Chicago Lawn have prompted the Chicago Police Department to issue a community alert.

Police did not say if the burglaries were of homes or garages.

Crime scenes include:
- 6200 block of South Albany on March 9.
- 6200 block of South Troy on March 9.
- 6000 block of South Kedzie at 3:00 a.m. March 10.
- 3100 block of West 61st Street on March 18.

Useful information to share about the crimes are asked to call CPD Area Central detectives at (312) 747-8382 and refer to crime pattern P20-1-102.

Police advise everyone:
- Keep your perimeter of your property well maintained.
- Report suspicious activity immediately.
- Keep doors and windows secure.
- Immediately repair any broken windows, doors or locks.
- If video surveillance is available, have a copy of the incident for investigating detectives.
- If you are a victim, do not touch anything; instead, call police immediately.
- If approached by a witness to the incident, request contact information.
- Secure window air conditioner units.

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Yards robberies prompt alert

Police seek teen missing from Brighton Park

Police have appealed to the public for help in finding a 14-year-old girl missing from Brighton Park.

Ashley Salgado was last seen in the 2900 block of West 33rd Street on Friday, March 27.

She was wearing a black Nike sweater with white letters, blue jeans and white Nike Air Force 1 gym shoes. She is 5-foot-2 and weighs 120 pounds. She has brown eyes, black hair and a light complexion.

Those with useful information about her whereabouts should call CDP Area Central detectives at (312) 747-8380.

Yards robberies prompt alert

Police seek teen missing from Brighton Park

From staff reports

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In each case, two offenders approached a victim and demanded their valuables. Police did not say if the robberies were armed or not.

The offenders were described only as black males, ages 25-35.

Crime scenes include:
- 5400 block of South Hermitage at 2:10 a.m. Thursday, March 19.
- 4700 block of South Sawyer at 12:08 a.m. Saturday, March 21.

Those with useful information to share about the crimes are asked to call CLPD Area Central detectives at (312) 747-8382 and refer to crime pattern P20-1-104.

Police advise:
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Report suspicious activity immediately.
- If you are confronted by an assailant, remain calm.

Remember any unique physical characteristics (scars, limp, acne, teeth).

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Those with useful information about her whereabouts should call CDP Area Central detectives at (312) 747-8380.
Pandemic claims Arab American newspaper publisher

An Arab American newspaper publisher from Tinley Park who immigrated to the United States with his parents from Jordan in the 1950s fell victim to the coronavirus pandemic.

Mansour Tadros, 69, died on Saturday, March 28 after battling the virus for nearly two weeks, confirmed. Family members said he died in the ambulance while returning to the hospital.

Last week, Tadros, who had been in the United States since he was four years old, contracted COVID-19, the most common symptoms of which included fever, cough and shortness of breath. He was in stable condition when he was taken to the hospital on March 17 from the Amman suburb of Na’ur, Tadros settled in Logan Square on the North Side, a popular neighborhood for Arab American families.

In 1975, he took a job in Saudi Arabia for an overseas export company. It was while in Saudi Arabia where he found an interest in news writing, believing the Arab World needed to counter negative anti-Arab stereotypes by doing a better job of sharing their real stories through the news media with Western audiences, particularly in the United States. "We Arabs in America don't have a lot of respect for ourselves, but we sure do complain a lot," Tadros explained.

To make the newspaper succeed, Tadros found other work running a roofing company and later working with another son, Faris, offering home mortgages.

"We Arabs in America don't have a lot of respect for ourselves, but we sure do complain a lot," Tadros explained.

Ray Hanania

In a time of anguish, there is hope

The state legislative session is just one of a multitude of events that have been upended by the crisis. We simply have no precedent to rely on here. Senate President Don Harmon made an interesting point when I asked him if he was keeping in contact with House Speaker Michael J. Madigan (D-22nd).

"I try to stay in touch with him," said Harmon, who was sworn into the chamber's presidency just a couple of months ago. Madigan has been running his chamber for decades and was first elected to the House when Harmon was not yet four years old.

"It's strange that the first big crisis is something neither he nor I have experienced. I thought everything I'd go through, the speaker would have already been through."

At least Harmon, who's known as a policy wonk, said he's doing some work in his home at the dining room table or at a desk in the family room. The Democratic leader all but closed his district office, which is less than a mile away from his Oak Park house, so he spends a lot of time there.

"I asked the rookie president what the lowest point of the past few weeks has been for him.

"I think the starkest point was the realization that I was being asked to make decisions that would literally affect people's health in such a material way. That was a sobering moment."

"I'm very aware of what I'm doing and the enormous responsibilities of the state and to the country and to the world."

I have been put in a position, and I am getting a lot of respect from our colleagues, and that is a position that I don't think I would normally have.

To get on here. Senate President Don Harmon made an interesting point when I asked him if he was keeping in contact with House Speaker Michael J. Madigan (D-22nd).

"I try to stay in touch with him," said Harmon, who was sworn into the chamber's presidency just a couple of months ago. Madigan has been running his chamber for decades and was first elected to the House when Harmon was not yet four years old.

"It's strange that the first big crisis is something neither he nor I have experienced. I thought everything I'd go through, the speaker would have already been through."

Rich Miller also publishes Capitol Fax, a daily political newsletter, and CapitolFax.com.

Rich Miller

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Ray Hanania
Wolf’s Bakery reopens in Evergreen Park

On March 16, Wolf’s Bakery in Evergreen Park was temporarily closing its doors because of the coronavirus pandemic. The bakery, which just celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2019, reopened Monday at 3241 W. 95th St. with some new plans to deal with the ongoing health emergency.

The owners said store hours would be 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.

For the time being, Wolf’s will only allow five people in the store at a time. Curbside pickup and delivery will be coming.

The menu has not changed and Wolf’s Bakery remains the home of the original Lemon Fluff cake, as well as South Side Irish Soda Bread, Butter Pecan Coffeecake, Atomic Cake, Chocolate Donuts, and Paczki.

For information, call 708-422-7429.

Food donations

Palo Heights-based Pop’s Italian Beef & Sausage restaurants will present the Greater Chicago Food Depository with a donation of $2,000.

The chain hosted a campaign throughout January, for proceeds from onion ring orders to go towards the local food bank. The Illini and restaurants raised the combined total and will present the donation to the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

“During these unprecedented times, we’re looking for way to be able to give back to an organization that continuously goes above and beyond to serve the community,” said Katie Radovanski, director of operations for Pop’s Italian Beef and Sausage. “At Pop’s Beef, we understand the importance of community and enjoy being able to give back initiatives that involve our customers. Our donation to the Greater Chicago Food Depository would not be possible without our loyal customers and we’re grateful for their generous contributions to an organization we all value.”

Pop’s Beef is known for its savory Italian beef. In northwest Indiana, Horseshoe Hammond Casino is doing its part to support surrounding community organizations amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic even as that down since March 16 by the Indiana Gaming Commission as a precautionary measure to the coronavirus crisis.

Campaigned Academy in Schererville and Meals on Wheels each recently received 15,000 pounds of perishable food. Horseshoe Hammond has supported both local organizations, along with many others, in previous efforts.

Regional President for Caesars Entertainment Dan Nita says donations are a part of the company’s shared mission of helping those in need.

“Meals on Wheels and Campagna Academy have a longstanding relationship with Horseshoe Hammond,” said Nita. “We are extremely happy to be able to work with such great partners, quickly getting perishable items to those who can use assistance at this critical moment.”

Art Van lawsuit

Art Van Furniture employees had the rug pulled out from under them on March 20 when the Michigan-based retailer closed its doors because of the coronavirus and then reneged on a plan to provide employees salaries and benefits.

The company immediately laid off all store and warehouse employees.

A company spokeswoman said Art Van couldn’t afford to keep employees after liquidation sales were halted because of COVID-19 concerns.

Employees affected by the decision in the south suburbs said a class-action lawsuit has been filed against the company.

Furloughs

National retailers Macy’s and Kohl’s announced on Monday they would start to furlough thousands of employees as U.S. retailers keep their stores shut to curb the spread of the coronavirus outbreak.

The furlough will impact a majority of its about 130,000 employees, Macy’s said. All workers at store and store distribution centers, as well as some corporate office associates will be affected by the decision, Kohl’s said.

“Given these extraordinary circumstances, we are taking difficult and decisive actions to strengthen our financial li- quidity,” Kohl’s Chief Executive Officer Michelle Gass said in a statement. Gass said she will not take a salary.

Kohl’s said furloughed employees would continue to get health benefits and added that those impacted could benefit from the new government stimulus package. Macy’s specified that employees enrolled in health benefits will continue to receive coverage, at least through May.

If you see a new business in town or wonder what happened to an old favorite, drop me a line at bobbong@hotmail.com. You can track business openings and closings at http://bobbongnbusiness.com.
By Joan Hadac

A known stress-buster, gardening may enjoy a boom this season, as folks stuck at home look for something constructive to do.

That’s good news for Jerry Soukal, owner of Soukal Floral and Greenhouses, one of the Chicago area’s oldest businesses.

“We usually open our greenhouses when the weather breaks which is usually at the end of April,” Soukal told the Greater Southwest News-Herald earlier this week. “This year we have scheduled our opening for May 1. I hope everything clears by then. If that happens, we will be on schedule and in our situation it will not affect our growing season.

“Providing everything goes as scheduled,” Soukal added, “I think this year will be bigger than ever.”

His reasoning is that everyone who has been trapped inside their houses to get away from COVID-19, will need a reason to smile.

Gardening and all its hobby, one in which theviding wholesome, low-cost food, vegetable gardening is an interesting hobby, one in which the whole family can take part. Other advantages of gardening are that it provides healthful outdoor exercise, productive activity for retired, handicapped, or disabled persons, and is an excellent teaching tool for children.

To get the most out of your garden you should make plans early in the year and follow proper steps during the gardening season. The purpose of this guide is to help you plan and maintain a garden under Illinois growing conditions so that you will have an abundant supply of high-quality vegetables at harvest and (if you freeze, can, or store your vegetables) throughout the year.

• Plan your garden layout.
• Grow recommended varieties.
• Obtain good seed, plants, equipment and supplies.
• Prepare and care for the soil properly.
• Plant your vegetables right.
• Keep down weeds.
• Control pests.
• Water properly.
• Harvest at peak quality.

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From staff reports

The University of Illinois Extension Illinois Vegetable Garden Guide offers 10 steps to a successful garden.

Vegetables from the home garden are fresher, may have better nutrient values, and are often less costly than those sold in stores. In addition to providing wholesome, low-cost food, vegetable gardening is an interesting hobby, one in which the whole family can take part. Other advantages of gardening are that it provides healthful outdoor exercise, offers productive activity for retired, handicapped, or disabled persons, and is an excellent teaching tool for children.

To get the most out of your garden you should make plans early in the year and follow proper steps during the gardening season. The purpose of this guide is to help you plan and maintain a garden under Illinois growing conditions so that you will have an abundant supply of high-quality vegetables at harvest and (if you freeze, can, or store your vegetables) throughout the year.

 veg.

one of the Chicago area’s oldest businesses.

“We usually open our greenhouses when the weather breaks which is usually at the end of April,” Soukal told the Greater Southwest News-Herald earlier this week. “This year we have scheduled our opening for May 1. I hope everything clears by then. If that happens, we will be on schedule and in our situation it will not affect our growing season.

“Providing everything goes as scheduled,” Soukal added, “I think this year will be bigger than ever.”

His reasoning is that everyone who has been trapped inside their houses to get away from COVID-19, will need a reason to smile.

Gardening and all its hobby, one in which the

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By Joan Hadac

A known stress-buster, gardening may enjoy a boom this season, as folks stuck at home look for something constructive to do.

That’s good news for Jerry Soukal, owner of Soukal Floral and Greenhouses, one of the Chicago area’s oldest businesses.

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By Jason Maholy
Sports Editor

Alyssa Bergamini marked March 26 on her calendar: the day the White Sox released their 2020 schedule. That was supposed to be Opening Day at Guaranteed Rate Field. The match-up against the Kansas City Royals would have been the earliest home opener in franchise history and the first Opening Day in Chicago since 2017.

As the in-game host for the White Sox, Bergamini would have been at the ballpark between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. to begin the most glorious day of Major League Baseball’s regular season. She would have been on all the morning shows on the local radio networks, talking baseball and about what is anticipated to be a resurgent season on the South Side.

“You’re there for 14 or 15 hours, depending on how the game goes,” said Bergamini, an Orland Park native and Marist graduate, who today works for the team she grew up routing for. “It’s the longest day ever and I’m always so tired because I’m not a morning person – but I love Opening Day.”

The host statement is a sentiment shared by true baseball fans, to whom Opening Day ranks up there with New Year’s Day as a celebration of hope and new beginnings. But with MLB as well as all other professional and college sports in the country on hold because of the coronavirus outbreak, that excitement has been placed on the back burner.

The hope now is that the social distancing and other safeguards being practiced in response to the outbreak will prevent a major virus cluster and that the nation will make it through this odd period with a minimal loss of lives and livelihoods.

Bergamini admits to being bummed by the MLB season being put on hold, but she understands the bigger picture and the necessity for the unprecedented measures that have been taken; and she is looking at the situation with a sense of optimism.

“No one’s ever going to forget this,” she said, referring to the outbreak and associated fallout. “It’s going to be a ‘Jeopardy!’ question, for sure.”

Bergamini began her professional career with the Schaumburg Boomers, an unaffiliated minor league baseball team in the independent Frontier League. A friend suggested she apply for the role of the team’s home game emcee, and she nailed the audition despite not having an emcee experience.

“I just knew afterwards, I was thinking, ‘I just got that job,’” she recalled. “I earned $50 per game and drove an hour each way. It just got that job,’” she recalled. “I earned $50 per game and drove an hour each way. It was just a tough situation for me, and I don’t really see myself doing anything else.”

By Jason Maholy
Sports Editor

Jim Sexton, who re-signed last month after three years as head coach of the St. Laurence boys basketball team, has signed on for the same gig at Evergreen Park.

The move will be a homecoming of sorts for Sexton, who grew up in and still lives in Evergreen Park. His father, also named Jim, has been the village’s mayor since 2001.

This will, however, be Sexton’s first foray into public schools. He is a graduate of Brother Rice – where he is still the Crusaders’ all-time leading scorer – and attended college at Creighton. He served as an assistant to Pat Richardson at Rice before moving on to St. Laurence, where he spent his first two years as the assistant to then-variety head coach Jim Maley.

“I’m really looking forward to it,” Sexton said of coaching in Evergreen. “Growing up in and living in the community still, to be able to take over the basketball program and lay the direction with all the great things the school has going for it right now, makes it a very exciting time to jump on board.”

Sexton acknowledged the fact St. Laurence has only one gym in which the Vikings boys team can practice was the primary factor in his leaving the program he had led to a 62-34 record during his three years. The Vikings finished 15-17 this season.

“It was just a tough situation,” he said, adding the need to shuffle practice times was interfering with his family and career obligations. “I understand St. Laurence’s perspective, that there was really nothing they could do about it, and when I took the job I understood there was only one gym. But it was a situation that just became too much, with my day-to-day family obligations.”

“The [St. Laurence] administration and coaches were very good, and everywhere the kids were great. We had a good run in my time there.”

Sexton wasn’t planning to coach again at the high school level right away, but in early March saw that longtime Mustangs coach Pat Flannigan had resigned.

“If there is a perfect situation for me it would be there, and obviously it was able to work out, so it’s great,” he said.

In addition to the Evergreen Park post, Sexton will also be his first time building a program from the ground up. He has for the past 10 years been involved with a youth program that serves Oak Lawn and Evergreen Park, so there will be some familiarity with the players he’ll be coaching.

“It’s a different challenge but an exciting one,” he said.

By Jason Maholy
Sports Editor

Marist grad Alyssa Bergamini is a lifelong White Sox fan who is now the team’s in-game host.

Former St. Laurence coach Sexton signs on to lead Mustangs

Alyssa Bergamini, an Orland Park native and Marist graduate, is the in-game host for the Chicago White Sox broadcasts. – Photos provided by Alyssa Bergamini
The outside world is just a computer click away

People's Gas workers busy on Pulaski

Mary Stanek
West Eslon & Archer
Heights correspondents
3808 W. 57th Pl.
Chicago, IL 60629
(773) 284-7394

Kathy Headley
Chicago Lawn &
Marquette Manor
6610 S. Francisco
Chicago IL 60629
(773) 776-7778

Perhaps it’s time to compose a rhymer

April is National Poetry Month; so if you have a little spare time on your hands, why don’t you write a poem? It’s also National Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the U.S. It’s International Guitar Month, National Pecan Month and Stress Awareness Month.

Today is National Party Day. I know we can’t gather in groups, but you could still have a party at home and communicate electronically. Not only work from home, but just to communicate with family all over the world.

The internet is a great resource now and also on Facebook. There are so many things to do with simple things you would think you have around the house, but I don’t know. After all the good folk shortages maybe you don’t have simple things in your house.

For example, you can make finger paint by mixing 3 tablespoons of sugar, 1/2 cup cornstarch, 2 cups of cold water, a little food coloring and a smidge of laundry detergent. Mix sugar, cornstarch and water; heat on low for 2 to 3 minutes add coloring and detergent. There is a plethora of websites to check out.

The doctor just called. I have an appointment; and their protocol is when you get there, you call them. They will get your room ready and when it’s ready they call you to come up. You must come in alone. I wonder if they will still take your copy?

Here are some stores that have special hours for seniors and those at risk; ALDI at 6025 S. Western and 620 W. 63rd St will have special hours on Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Jewel-Osco at 5320 S. Pulaski have them on Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 9 a.m. Dollar General at 66th and Western and 62nd and Kedzie are 8 to 9 a.m. daily. Mariano’s at 31st and Ashland will open for seniors daily from 6 to 8 a.m. Food For Less at 47th and Damen is open for seniors Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 to 7:50 a.m. Walgreens at 55th and Kedzie has special hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 9 a.m.

Beware of scams. People are knocking on doors, wearing what looks like official clothing, gloves, masks, etc. saying they have to come in to check you for the virus. Do not open the door. They get in your house and rob you. Don’t give out personal information over the phone. Nobody is going to call you and give you money if you give them your Social Security number or bank account numbers. It’s a scam.

Please be careful, stay healthy. If you can’t get out, read the paper online. Send your Gage Park information to karen.salas@hotmail.com
Life moves on, even during a pandemic.

On this day in 1924, Marlon Brando was born. Thanks to him, women named Stella have been yelled at for making homemade pasta. Another neighbor is making little birdhouses from kits she found at a dollar store. Her kids are painting them. Her neighbor, Gladys Becker, just got out her oil paints and created the most beautiful picture of flowers in a vase.

I have been taking a free online course in American history. I suggested to my son, Joe, that this might be a good time to organize his room. He said, “I will call this a quarantine project.”

The Chicago Park District is offering lots of free online classes from park districts all over the city. I didn’t see anything from my old state of Minnesota, but it causes all the classes to be open to all residents of Chicago.

There are classes in puppyhood, household cleaning tips, meditation and even a storybook reading for the kiddies. I didn’t find meditation and even a storybook reading for the kiddies. I didn’t find

“Correctional centers under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Corrections are processing inmates in accordance with the Illinois Eases and Ventilator Support,” Pritzker said. “If we never have cases in Illinois, they will have to build new hospitals first,” Pritzker said. “If we never have cases in Illinois, they will have to build new hospitals first.”
### Residential Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Bedrooms</th>
<th>Bathrooms</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5259 S. KILBourn</td>
<td>$289,900</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 bath oversized brick Ranch. Full finished basement. 2 car garage</td>
<td>Paul/Mng. Broker 773-229-2313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10437 S. KOSTNER</td>
<td>$319,900</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Single Family Home. Full finished basement.</td>
<td>Brian/Broker 773-788-2629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5855 S. RUTHERFORD</td>
<td>$229,900</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 bath brick Ranch. 2.5 car garage. 4,725 foot lot w/side drive.</td>
<td>Brian/Broker 773-788-2629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5615 S. MERRIMAC</td>
<td>$332,900</td>
<td>5+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2-Story in Garfield Ridge. 2 car garage. Huge yard w/pool.</td>
<td>Paul/Mng. Broker 773-229-2313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5948 S. NASHVILLE</td>
<td>$325,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 bath oversized brick Ranch. Full finished basement. 2 car brick garage</td>
<td>Paul/Mng. Broker 773-229-2313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6116 S. MEADE</td>
<td>$249,900</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 bath brick Ranch, 2 car garage. Full basement w/27x23 family room</td>
<td>Brian/Broker 773-788-2629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5951 S. RUTHERFORD</td>
<td>$234,900</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 bath brick Ranch. 2 car garage. Call for an appointment</td>
<td>Paul/Mng. Broker 773-229-2313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4511 S. AVERS</td>
<td>$359,900</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 Flat in great location Newer windows &amp; roof. 2.5 car garage plus underground garage</td>
<td>Paul/Mng. Broker 773-229-2313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6046 S. AUSTIN</td>
<td>$389,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5 bedroom + bonus room, 3.5 bath Brick Quad-Level.</td>
<td>Amy/Broker 773-381-3400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5531 S. NORDICA</td>
<td>$320,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 bath 2-Story Bungalow Full finished bsmt. 2 car garage.</td>
<td>Paul/Mng. Broker 773-229-2313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6216 S. MASON</td>
<td>$229,900</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>3 bedroom brick Ranch. Partially finished basement. 2 car garage</td>
<td>Paul/Mng. Broker 773-229-2313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5352 S. NOTTINGHAM</td>
<td>$245,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5 bedroom, 2 bath brick Cape Cod w/ side drive. Full bsmt w/workshop.</td>
<td>Paul/Mng. Broker 773-229-2313</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Residential Properties Under Contract

- 6419 S. Oak Park #E5
- 5408 S. Rutherford
- 5837 S. Kilbourn
- 5733 S. Newcastle

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